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OPINION METER

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ASIA



Floods and landslides in the Philippines kill at least 20 people.

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Swedish doctors transplant wombs into nine women.

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LIFE & STYLE



"Octomom" Nadya Suleman is charged with three counts of welfare fraud.

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Landowners and their families listen to lawmakers and other agency heads' discussions about unpaid land compensations in the House chamber on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Landowners demand payment

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Wheelchair-bound Rafael Rangamar, 77, has been living in a termite-infested house in Chalan Kiya which, since last year, also didn't have power and water as the family could barely make ends meet. For decades now, the Rangamar family has been asking the government to pay at least a portion of what they claim is \$14.4 million in unpaid compensation for the taking of portions of their family land for road construction.

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Senate asks Obama to delay action on CNMI submerged lands

» **180-day sunset provision, 902 talks pushed**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senate asked President Barack Obama yesterday to delay a proclamation withholding or exempting conveyance to the CNMI of submerged lands surrounding five of its 14 islands so that issues can be considered through Covenant Section 902 talks, on the

See **SENATE** on **Page 4**

'No police, customs officers randomly tested for drugs'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Amid reports and cases of law enforcement officers being involved in illegal drugs, no one in the Department of Public Safety or the Division Customs Services was randomly tested for drug use for at least a year—as required by law—because the CNMI government has not budgeted a penny for such a test. A drug test costs some \$30 per person.

DPS is the largest law enforcement agency in the CNMI, with hundreds

» **CNMI has zero funding for random drug testing**

of police officers under its wing.

DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero and Customs director Joe Mafnas separately told senators yesterday morning about the lack of random drug testing in their respective agencies during at least 2013.

They were responding to questions posed by Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) during the Senate session.

But the DPS commissioner and Customs director said the Office of Personnel Management is responsible for deciding who or when government

Inos hospitalized for 'flu-like symptoms'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has been hospitalized for what the administration described yesterday as "flu-like symptoms."

"The governor is being treated for flu-like symptoms and may be discharged today," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday when sought for comment on the governor's admission to the Commonwealth Health Center.



Inos

Demapan said, "It's the flu season after all."

"Nonetheless, Gov. Inos continued to review and sign off on pertinent documents even while admitted. He is in good spirits today and is eager to get back home and back to work," the press secretary added.

Saipan Tribune learned that the governor was hospitalized since Monday.

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'Saipan has between 10K to 20K stray dogs' **PAGE 2**
Inos hospitalized for 'flu-like symptoms' **PAGE 4**

Local

'Saipan has between 10,000 to 20,000 stray dogs'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Even with the creation of the Dog Control Program under the Saipan Mayor's Office four years ago, the island continues to struggle with a very large free-roaming dog population. An official of The Humane Society of the United States estimates Saipan's stray dog population to be between 10,000 and 20,000.

HSUS Hawaii State director Inga Gibson's estimate was corroborated by Dog Control

Program manager Spencer Marchadesch, who said the figure doesn't even include the island's stray cats.

Gibson, who spoke to the *Saipan Tribune* during a break in their meeting with Dog Control Program staff on Saturday, said that Saipan is not alone when it comes to having a large feral dog population.

She said Guam has an estimated 40,000 stray dogs, with Puerto Rico many times that number. American Samoa and Rota also have the same problem, she said.

Gibson said her group wants to launch a humane animal population management program on Saipan.

"That would entail the spay/neuter, community outreach and education, helping the officers with the enforcement of the animal care laws, and also helping if we need new laws in getting the support of the Legislature and the community if we need to enact any other animal protection laws."

However, Gibson said a survey of the free-roaming animal population on Saipan

should first be conducted. She said the 10,000 to 20,000 estimate for Saipan and the 40,000 estimate for Guam are unconfirmed figures.

"What we're preparing to do in Guam—which should be the next step here—is conduct a survey because without knowing how many dogs and what the greatest challenges are, we can't go in and make recommendations. We need to know the scope of the problem."

The HSUS official also championed community and government involvement in

finding a solution to the island's stray dog problem.

"We need to go out to the villages and talk to pet owners and community members and get data on the number of animals. We also need to ask whether their pets are spay/neutered and why not. On Saipan, it's probably because there's not enough resources, not enough veterinarians. We want to hear from the community since the success of a program depends on the support of the community and government agencies."

An improved shelter for ani-

mals, she said, is the key for better community involvement because it could lead to more people adopting animals or being involved in other areas.

"The hope is for more people to start adopting. If they cannot adopt then maybe they can volunteer. If they can't volunteer, then they can donate. We're really excited to continue to work with the mayor because we think he really sets a model for the community and setting up the shelter, a place to actually take these animals for owners to claim them and available for adoptions."

Hundreds welcome home 2nd wave of TF Guam soldiers

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Family and friends of returning "Task Force Guam" members lined the south ramp apron of the A.B. Won Pat International Airport early yesterday morning to welcome home their soldiers.

A total of 223 members of the Guam Army National Guard's I-294th Infantry Regiment stepped off their chartered flight at about 12:30am.

The soldiers completed their demobilization at Camp Shelby in Mississippi and left at 6:15am Monday Guam time

and re-fueled in Hawaii before landing. On Jan. 5, 280 soldiers arrived on the first charter from Camp Shelby.

Task Force Guam was the largest group of reserve component troops ever to be mobilized and deployed from Guam. The nearly 600 soldiers were spread out in even units at key locations throughout Afghanistan.

With nearly all soldiers back in Guam, the focus now shifts to ensuring that jobs are available especially in light of the surprisingly high rate of unem-

ployment among them—something that had not been realized until recently.

Of the nearly 600 soldiers in the 1st Battalion 294th Infantry Regiment, nearly half are unemployed. Now that most of them are back from a nearly yearlong deployment in Afghanistan, the focus is on getting them jobs or getting them trained for careers.

Guam Community College is among the agencies that's assisting with this initiative. GCC's Keep Your Guard Up as well as other agencies will begin meet-

ing with soldiers today.

GCC's Director of Workforce Development Vic Rodgers says the first wave of soldiers has already been briefed.

"Of the initial group that came in last week which consisted of almost 280 soldiers, 164 of them decided that they wanted to get specialized training through GCC," he said. "We're surprised by the numbers but not overwhelmed by [it]."

Even at the outset, the number of unemployed soldiers is not exactly something to rejoice about. In fact, it came as a

surprise initially, which is why, Rodgers said, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is taking careful steps to ensure it does not happen again in the future.

Meanwhile, Guam National Guard spokesperson Maj. Josephine Blas is encouraging interested employers to attend a briefing at the ESGR Office this Thursday to learn more about what to expect now that the soldiers are home and will be looking for jobs.

To find out more contact ESGR at (671) 735-0456.

Ex-convict on federal probation found using 'ice'

A man who is federal probation after serving a prison term for joining six prisoners in a hostage drama at the Department of Corrections in 2009 was found using methamphetamine or "ice" and drinking alcoholic beverages.

For violating the terms of his supervision, the U.S. Probation Office recommended to the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday to modify the conditions of supervision by prohibiting Arcel Lizama Basto from drinking any alcoholic beverages.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the U.S. Probation's request.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola stated in his petition that Basto tested presumptive positive for "ice" use during a drug test on Dec. 3 and 21, 2013.

When confronted with the results, Basto allegedly admitted to using the illegal drugs on Dec. 3 and 17 apparently due to personal issues.

Arriola said results of breathalyzer test conducted on Basto on Dec. 13 showed a .086 blood alcohol content. Basto allegedly admitted drinking alcoholic beverage on Dec. 12 and Dec. 17.

Arriola said Basto also admitted on Friday that he had been associating with convicted felon Ryan T. Babauta and had been carrying a knife for protection.

Arriola said he warned Basto that if his behavior continues, this will result in the possible revocation of his supervised release.

Basto was among seven prisoners who held a 14-hour hostage drama at DOC in Susupe in March 2009. As a result of the hostage taking, the federal court slapped him with a 180-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release. His supervision commenced on April 19, 2013. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

NMC registration's first day yields nearly 400 enrollees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nearly 400 students trooped to the Northern Marianas College on Monday, the first day of the weeklong enrollment, to register for the new spring 2014 semester.

According to Manny Castro, director of admissions and records, a total of 384 full-time students enrolled on Monday, Jan. 13. The number is expected to rise by the end of the registration period on Friday. Final enrollment numbers will be made available after registration for classes has passed.

Full-time equivalency is calculated by taking the total number credits students have registered for and dividing that figure by 12, the minimum number of credits needed to be a full-time student.

Castro said the 384 enrollees include those who registered during the early registration last week. He explained that early registration is opened to students who expect to graduate in May and those who volunteer during enrollment week.

"The first day of registration went very well. Many of our staff are being assisted by volunteers to ensure that students receive the assistance that they need. We are also allowing



Newly re-admitted Northern Marianas College student Joshua Diaz, right, registers for classes to take in the upcoming spring 2014 semester with the help of an Office of Admissions and Records staff member. Registration for NMC's spring 2014 semester will be ongoing this week until Friday, Jan. 17.

students to send their registration forms by email so that they don't need to be on campus to register," said Castro.

One of the enrollees, Kono Remeliik, described the first-day of enrollment as very smooth.

"Registration has been very smooth so far; the registration process has greatly improved from previous semesters. It's really organized," said Re-

meliik, a sophomore.

He shared his plans after graduation. "My education here at NMC is helping me prepare for a career where I can help people. After graduating, I plan to pursue my bachelor's degree and eventually come back to contribute to the economic development of the CNMI," he said.

A new student at NMC, Kayla Dela Cruz, shared her

enrollment experience.

"This is my first time registering for classes and staff have been very helpful during the process," said Dela Cruz. She said she is excited and looking forward to the first day of instruction next week.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart emphasized the importance of looking not only to the academic enrollees at the college but to the non-credit

programs the institution offer.

"While it is important that we look at the number of students served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program," said Hart, adding that the college has served thousands of individuals in these programs.

"There is no mistaking that the college continues to play a central role in educating and training thousands of individuals each year, and this has been accomplished through our academic programs and other community programs that focus on training and development," she said.

NMC offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (concentrations in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. It also offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Health corporation says it complies with immigration law

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REPORTER

Non-immigrant employees of

MVA launches Russia office

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority hopes to provide greater exposure for the Northern Marianas in Russia with its decision to open a promotional office in that country.

MVA managing director Perry John Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that an offshore office is now functioning in Vladivostok, Russia, with two full-time public relations and marketing managers in place.

The CNMI now has four official promotional offices: in Japan, Korea, China, and Russia.

Tenorio disclosed that Russian visitors have a significant amount of economic impact on the Commonwealth, to the tune of approximately \$133 million last fiscal year.

"Although Russians accounted for only about 3 percent of visitor arrivals in fiscal year 2013, the economic impact of the market comprises approximately 12.45 percent of overall tourism revenue. For fiscal year 2013, Russian visitors were estimated to have generated approximately \$133 million in economic activity in the CNMI," said Tenorio.

The Northern Marianas receives bi-weekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok and weekly charter flights from Khabarovsk.

"Given their economic significance, when additional marketing funding became available through the increase in hotel occupancy tax this year, the MVA prioritized the opening of a representative office in East Russia," Tenorio said.

For airlift development, the new office will work with Aviacharters, Asiana Airlines, and other key airline partners to

the Commonwealth Health Center need not worry about their employment status following disclosure yesterday that

boost airlift from the East Russia market to the CNMI.

For travel trade marketing, Tenorio said the new office will work with key travel agents through East Russia to ensure the development of new tour packages to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and to launch co-op campaigns with the major agents to boost bookings to the NMI.

To boost public/media relations, the office will also work with jet media in East Russia, including daily newspapers, monthly lifestyle and travel magazines, guidebooks, network television, radio, and travel trade publications to secure unpaid exposure for the CNMI and rapidly raise the visibility and presence of mind of the CNMI as a world-class destination choice for East Russia residents.

MVA will also launch a Russian website and ensure major buzz for the CNMI in all key Russia social media networks to influence Russian travelers to select the CNMI as their next vacation destination.

The new office will also launch a range of promotions in conjunction with travel agents and airline partners to drive increased bookings from East Russia to the CNMI.

Offshore budget

According to Tenorio, the new offshore office is currently budgeted at \$325,000 for the first half of the fiscal year.

"We will be evaluating our financial position to set the budget for the second half of the year. We are optimistic that our new office will help bring more Russians to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and we invite the community to join us in welcoming them, as well as all our other guest, and giving them warm memories of their visit here," he added.

Judge to hear Crisostomo's bid to suppress footprint evidence

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will hear attorney Janet H. King's objection to the Office of the Attorney General's execution of a search warrant in which footprints were taken from her client, Joseph A. Crisostomo, without her presence.

Camacho said he will hear the arguments on Crisostomo's motion on Jan. 24, 2014, at 1:30pm.

The OAG was allowed to file any opposition to Crisostomo's motion on or before Jan. 17. Crisostomo was allowed to reply on or before Jan. 22.

The other motion to be heard that same day is the OAG's motion for deposition or online video conferencing testimony.

Arguing that such taking of

footprints was a violation of Crisostomo's Sixth Amendment rights, King asked the court to suppress the footprint evidence.

Crisostomo faces charges of kidnapping and killing bartender Emerita Romero in February 2012.

King said the government seized six barefoot prints of her client at the Department of Corrections on Dec. 24, 2013, using a search warrant issued by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

King said she was not aware of the OAG's application for the search warrant, until between 9am and 9:15am on Dec. 24, at the time the search warrant was being executed.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

the latest batch of CW petitions were approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. interim CEO Esther Muña and hospital services administrator Jesse Tudela separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that only one among the latest batch of CW applications was not approved pending further evidentiary document required by USCIS.

"All applications, except one, were approved. Staff were informed by our hospital administrator [Jesse Tudela] of the status of their documents," said Muña.

Tudela said that over 30 petitions in the latest batch of CW applications were approved. The sole employee whose application remains pending has

been instructed to stop working at the hospital until USCIS approves the petition, he said.

"We're complying with the law. For the latest batch of CW petitions we received, only one was not OK and the said employee was properly advised. Like other entities out here, CHCC is treated the same," Tudela said.

Saipan Tribune tried to find out how many of the corporation's employees have CW status but the data was not provided. Based, however, on the January 2013 record of CHCC, which was then reported to the CHCC board by for-

mer CEO Juan N. Babauta, the corporation applied for 120 CW employees. These are mostly

» **Over 30 nurses are approved CW petitions; 1 advised to stop work due to pending documents**

nurses at CHC and the Tinian and Rota clinics.

Some of the hospital's non-immigrant personnel said yesterday there remain a high number of CW petitions that are pending to date. Many are worried that, like

the one staffer, they may have to stop working if their CW renewal petitions remains pending when their current CW permits expire.

But according to Tudela, the corporation's Human Resources

office submits CW petitions in batches because not everybody has the same CW expiration date.

"For now, there's no impact to our operation because services are delivered uninterrupted by our personnel," he said, adding that the work stoppage of one CW employee is just temporary and not disruptive to the work at the hospital.

He is optimistic that the CW renewal of the one employee, along with others still in process, will soon be approved by USCIS.

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SENATE

From Page 1

heels of separate requests from Gov. Eloy S. Inos and CNMI House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) for the president to amend his draft proclamation.

Some officials, however, conceded that last-minute appeals from the CNMI may just be “an

exercise in futility,” considering that Obama only has until Jan. 16 (Jan. 17, CNMI time) to withhold conveyance of submerged lands to the CNMI.

In adopting Senate Resolution 18-23 yesterday afternoon, senators asked Obama to impose a 180-day sunset provision to resolve issues and to include the CNMI government and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in the Covenant Sec-

tion 902 discussion.

If Obama signs this week a draft presidential proclamation in its current form, the CNMI still won't have control over submerged lands surrounding five of its 14 islands: Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas), Maug, Asuncion, Farallon De Medinilla, and Tinian.

The first three islands are part of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument established

in 2009, while the last two are under lease to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan clarified that the president will not be signing any proclamation transferring submerged lands to the CNMI because Public Law 113-34, signed in September 2013, automatically conveys all the submerged lands around the CNMI islands to the Commonwealth.

DRUGS

From Page 1

Police officers have figured in drug-related cases the past few years but the government has yet to do any random drug testing among existing DPS personnel.

Meanwhile, Mafnas said he had to let go of two customs employees in 2013 for drug-related issues—one for selling illegal drugs and one for associating with drug users.

“One of them admitted to it when we asked,” Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune* after testifying before the Senate on a House bill requiring mandatory drug testing for all law enforcement personnel each year.

Mafnas said Customs didn't ask OPM to require the two to undergo drug tests when he became suspicious of their activities.

Deleon Guerrero has also

been advocating “zero tolerance,” wherein anyone at DPS found positive for drug use should be automatically removed from the department.

But he said some lawmakers raised constitutional concerns after a meeting last year to draft legislation for mandatory drug testing among all law enforcement personnel.

“OPM is entrusted with the responsibility of administering random drug testing program across the entire government inclusive of DPS, Customs and other law enforcement agencies. That's why I'm here to advocate to have us [DPS] run this program so we can effectively run it,” the DPS commissioner said.

When asked whether he can require drug testing for those suspected of using drugs, he said, “There may be latitudes for doing that. But you see, OPM still has to identify the funding.”

Personnel director Isidro Se-

man was not available for interview yesterday. It was learned, however, that there is no specific funding under OPM's budget for random drug testing.

Senators, including Sens. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and Manglona, took turns saying that funding should be secondary to concerns about public safety.

Deleon Guerrero said the Inos administration has been open to providing at least seed money to allow random drug testing for DPS and other law enforcers, once a mandatory drug testing bill is in place.

But at the Senate session yesterday, Reyes, Manglona, Sens. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Victor Hocog, and other senators recommended changes to improve the House bill.

Deleon Guerrero later said he hopes that the suggestions raised at the session would be incorporated by the Senate in the House bill.

LANDOWNERS

From Page 1

“All we ask is at least partial payment for now. We're not asking for everything all at once. Our house is termite-infested and it could fall on us any time. CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] had to cut power and water last year because we didn't have money to pay them,” Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He shares the dilapidated house with his wife, two sons, four daughters and three grandchildren on some 20,000 square meters of land in Chalan Kiya.

Rangamar was one of the dozens of landowners who trooped to Capital Hill yesterday morning to attend a joint meeting of the House Committees on Ways and Means and Natural Resources to tackle land compensation and related issues.

“Not even a penny was paid to us,” Rangamar added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Ways and Means chairman, said the goal was to bring together government agencies involved—the departments of Public Lands, Public Works, and Finance and the Office of the Attorney General—so they could help update and educate landowners on the process of land compensation and what's been done to satisfy court judgments.

Sablan said unpaid land compensation has been an age-old CNMI government problem.

He said the task at hand now

is for the Legislature to come up with—and pass—revenue-generating bills that will help pay landowners their rightful claims.

A number of pending bills and initiatives seek to help generate additional revenues and set aside percentages of those revenues for land compensations.

One by one, families addressed lawmakers and agency heads yesterday in the House chamber about their longstanding requests to get compensated for the taking of their private lands for public purposes such as to build roads and protect wetlands and ponding basins.

DPL's Ray Salas said the total unpaid land compensation as of last year was over \$83 million, but he said the department needs to review the figure once again.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, and DPW Secretary Martin Sablan were also on hand to answer House members' questions about land compensation, including how the \$40 million bond that was floated supposedly to pay land claims was spent.

Of the \$40 million bond floated, only \$28 million went to land compensation.

Rep. Tony Sablan said, “If we keep on looking backward, we won't be able to move forward,” referring to the \$40 million bond that was floated years back and the task at hand to generate more revenues or re-appropriate money for land

compensation.

“This is not going to be an overnight solution... I believe the lowest [land compensation claim] is \$34,000. I don't see why people have to wait for 20 years for that amount to be paid,” he said.

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said it best when he pointed to the House of Representatives.

“This is the body that appropriates money [for land compensation]—not DPL, DPW, AG, Finance. What has happened to \$40 million solely intended for land compensation, but not used in its entirety to compensate landowners? I don't want to dwell on what exactly happened. The politics of the past had played a great deal and this is where we are today... looking for more money to appropriate,” Dela Cruz said.

One of the recommendations from DPL that the vice speaker finds helpful is setting aside future interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust to pay for land compensation.

Dela Cruz noted that the NMD Corp. opposes that proposal, claiming it won't benefit people of Northern Marianas descent. But Dela Cruz said, “This is our own NMDs that will benefit.”

The vice speaker, along with other House members, raised concern on the method used to decide which families will get compensated first before others.

At one point, Dela Cruz chuckled when he mentioned that one family alone was com-

pensated close to \$3 million for a wetland.

DPL said there are over 300 families who have been waiting for government payment for lands acquired decades ago for road projects, among other things.

DPL revenue from government land leases cannot be used to pay for land compensation claims. Under the law, these funds must be transmitted to MPLT for investment. Earnings from these investments go to the general fund, which the government then uses for its operational expenses.

One of the bills pending, Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-143, would allow the government to satisfy judgments without an appropriation; in short, they should be paid from “any available funds with or without appropriation” from the Legislature.

There is also more than \$27 million in government's outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements that go as far back as November 2004.

Under CNMI law, any final judgment of a court can only be paid if the Legislature appropriates a budget for it. Every year, the Office of the Attorney General sends an updated list of outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements to the Legislature.

“And the Legislature is sitting on our money, not only this Legislature but past Legislatures,” Rangamar said as he prepared to leave the legislative building at past lunch hour yesterday.

The law, however, does give Obama 120 days to withhold conveyance of some of the lands, if he decides there is a federal interest in doing so, Sablan said.

“And the deadline for him to do that is Jan. 16,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI Senate, in its adopted resolution, requests Obama to delay the proclamation regarding the submerged lands around the Marine National Monument, Tinian, and FDM and impose a 180-day sunset provision “which would require the parties to reach an agreement on a co-management plan and also to include a mutually agreeable process to have any outstanding issues resolved.”

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), original author of the resolution that later became authored by the whole CNMI Senate, conceded that while the resolution may be too late, it shows that the body has made its position known.

He said the CNMI should not stop advocating for control of its own submerged lands.

Delegate Sablan, meanwhile, said the proclamation that President Bush signed after negotiation with then-governor Benigno R. Fitial creating the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument did anticipate that the submerged lands around Maug, Uracas and Farallon de Pajaros in the Monument might not be conveyed to the Commonwealth “until there was an agreement between the Commonwealth and the federal government on how those submerged lands would be managed.”

“And the Obama administration, in testifying on my submerged lands bill, said the same thing. So I think it can be expected that President Obama will withhold conveyance of the submerged lands in the Monument temporarily, while the management agreement is being worked out,” Sablan said.

He said if that happens, the congressional office “will certainly encourage both the Obama administration and the Commonwealth government to put some energy behind completing an agreement, so the submerged lands in the Monument can be transferred to the Northern Mariana Islands.”

Sablan also understand that the U.S. military has some concerns about how the CNMI's ownership of submerged lands

around Tinian and FDM might affect training activities.

“But the lease of those lands actually already includes the offshore waters; and military training activities have been going on for three decades under terms of that lease,” he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that “if the United States is amenable to considering Gov. Inos' request to set a deadline and procedure to reach a mutually acceptable agreement, then that would save more time than having to put submerged lands on hold to convene 902 talks.”

The governor wrote a letter to Obama raising concerns about exempting certain submerged lands from conveyance to the CNMI.

Inos also wrote a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, raising concerns on the submerged lands.

In that letter, Inos said there is no established period of time within which the written agreements must be completed and there is no procedure to resolve a situation in which negotiations have failed between the parties to reach a mutually agreeable written agreement.

“This means in effect that should the CNMI fail to reach appropriate written agreements with our federal counterparts, then the submerged lands around Tinian and Farallon de Medinilla and the Marine National Monument might never actually pass to the CNMI,” Inos told Pritzker and Jewell.

On Monday, CNMI House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) also wrote a letter to Obama, requesting that the “reservation” language in the draft proclamation be omitted entirely.

In the alternative, he asks that the final proclamation include language that sets a procedure for resolving disputes in the event that a mutual resolution is not reached between the CNMI and the relevant federal departments, and sets deadline for reaching agreements regarding the conveyance of the lands at issue.

At Sablan's request, U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Lisa Murkowski introduced S. 256 or the submerged lands legislation that became law. It gives the CNMI control of the underwater coasts of its islands. The CNMI became the last U.S. coastal state or territory to own its offshore lands.

in these trying times.

Previous governors received medical treatment while in office, including former governor Benigno R. Fitial who underwent surgery to correct spinal stenosis and was at times in a wheelchair but continued to govern and managed to get re-elected, among other things. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

INOS

From Page 1

He was on Rota over the weekend.

Months ago, Inos' critics created noise about his ongoing dialysis treatment but the administration and his supporters said this has not hampered the governor's ability to lead the CNMI

SDLLC insists \$190.8M power purchase agreement was valid

»'Fitial's executive order excuses CUC from compliance with procurement rules'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The executive order that then-governor Benigno R. Fitial signed excuses the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. from complying with CUC's procurement regulations and this only means that the power purchase agreement the former governor entered with the Saipan Development LLC was valid, according to SDLLC counsel William Fitzgerald.

In SDLLC's opposition to CUC's motion to dismiss SDLLC's lawsuit, Fitzgerald pointed out that CUC's argument is incorrect that the PPA does not comply with the pro-

curement regulations, which invalidates the PPA.

He said Executive Order 2012-07 excuses CUC from complying with procurement rules because the utilities agency acted through then-governor Fitial—the acting CUC executive director and board of directors—who is vested with authority to engage in sole source and emergency procurement.

“CUC's argument also fails, because, to the extent the regulations are still operative under Executive Order 2012-07, the CUC regulations clearly authorize sole source and emergency procurement,” Fitzgerald said.

SDLLC, the Delaware-based

contractor of the controversial \$190.8 million PPA it signed with Fitial, filed a lawsuit in federal court against CUC over the voided PPA.

SDLLC asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award the company damages for its reliance on the CUC promise, and the amount incurred while evaluating, negotiating, and preparing to perform under the PPA to build a power plant.

CUC had asked for the suit's dismissal. CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher argued that even if Fitial signed the PPA and other contracts with SDLLC as then governor, he was still required to adhere to CNMI pro-

curement rules.

Even if Fitial signed not on behalf of the utility but as the executive under the executive order, he did not have the power to ignore CNMI procurement laws, Fisher added.

In SDLLC's opposition to the motion, Fitzgerald asserted that Fitial assumed the powers of the CUC's executive director and board of directors, giving him the authority to enter into the PPA and related documents.

Fitzgerald said any requirements for a written approval of the PPA by the CUC's executive director or board of directors were satisfied by the various writings by Fitial and between

the parties to the PPA.

“Further, contrary to the CUC's statements, the validity of the Power Plant Development Agreement does not affect the validity of the PPA because it is a separate agreement,” he said.

Fitzgerald also argued that SDLLC is entitled to have its day in federal court, pursuant to Diversity of Citizenship, as well as a forum selection clause through which the parties agreed to have any dispute resolved in the District Court.

“CUC is desperate to deny SDLLC the District Court forum, desperate to keep SDLLC in the local court, and desperate to subject SDLLC to the preju-

dices that diversity jurisdiction is designed to protect out-of-state litigants from,” he added.

The alleged secretive signing of the no-bid, 25-year PPA was one of the issues that led to the filing of impeachment charges against Fitial, who subsequently resigned as governor.

Fitial and then-attorney general Edward Buckingham signed the PPA on Aug. 3, 2012.

In a letter dated Jan. 4, 2013, sent to SDLLC, Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas claimed that his predecessor, Buckingham, erred in indicating the PPA and related agreements were sufficient as to form and legal capacity. San Nicolas said the PPA and related agreements were void from the beginning.

Study: Landed reef fish shows different positive situation

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan reef fish sold in local markets in 2009 compared to those caught from 2011 to 2013 show a “very different and positive situation,” according to Micronesian Environmental Services owner and principal John Gourley.

Speaking at yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Gourley said the most recent study of local reef fish sold in the markets of Saipan generally showed an improvement in the number of fish found above the L50 value on certain species where sizes could be compared with the 2009 study.

For example, quoting the 2009 study, he said *hangan* (organspine unicornfish) sold “were often being caught” below the size where 50 percent of the females are sexually mature (or L50).

In the 2011-2013 study conducted by his company, only 0.3 percent of *hangan* were found to be below their L50 (16.5 cm FL) size.

Palakse or *laggua* (redlip parrotfish) found in fish markets in 2009 were also “very often caught” below their L50 size (36 cm FL), but in the 2011-2013 study only 5 percent of the fish were found to be below the



Micronesian Environmental Services owner and principal John Gourley served as guest speaker in Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

female L50 size (24 cm FL).

The most dramatic change from the 2009 study was for *tataga* (bluespine unicornfish). Whereas 90 percent of those found in Saipan markets were below their L50 size (36 cm FL) in 2009, the 2011-2013 study showed only 39 percent of *tataga* that found itself in local markets were below their L50 size.

What's more encouraging is from the 20-25 cm average length of the 1,180 *tataga* caught in 2009, the length of the 5,480 *tataga* caught and sold

from 2011 to 2013 increased to an average size of 28.5 cm (FL).

The only species of reef fish sold in local markets that showed a jump in the number of those caught below L50 was the steephead parrotfish. In 2009, only 24 percent of steephead parrotfish in local markets were below the female L50 (32 cm FL) size. However, from 2011 to 2013, approximately 30 percent of steephead parrotfish were below their L50 (31 cm FL) size.

The 2009 study didn't have any data on *hiyok* (bluebanded

surgeonfish), which is the most dominant reef fish in Saipan markets. The 2011 to 2013 study found very few *hiyok* in the market that was below the female L50 (16.6 cm FL).


It's not that the sizes of market reef fish increased from 2009 to present, but that the 2009 market study used L50 values that proved to be inaccurate. This resulted in drawing incorrect conclusions with respect to the percentage of market fish that are considered immature. Using science-based results for sexual maturity, Gourley found that certain dominant market reef fish were not nearly in such

poor shape as depicted in 2009.


The 2009 study was conducted over a four-month period and involved measuring 11,500 fish (approximately 7,000 lbs), while the 2011-2013 study was done in a span of 36 months and encompassed a total of 111,893 fish (65,797 lbs).

Micronesian Environmental Services' bio-sampling data collection program for commercial Saipan landed reef fish was made possible by a 2010 grant from the Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center (NOAA) and is managed in conjunction with the local Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Reprogram From	Reprogram to
2010	Planning and Administrative Costs	Planning and Administrative Costs	Ongoing	\$43,375.53	
2011	Planning and Administrative Costs	Planning and Administrative Costs	Ongoing	\$53,649.47	
2013	Public Facilities	Saipan Southern High School Swimming Pool	Ongoing	\$250,000.00	
2011/2012	Public Facilities	Construction of the Junior High School Public Facility (Koblerville)*	Ongoing		\$347,025.00
Total				\$347,025.00	\$347,025.00

Note*: The Community Development Grant funds will be allocated to the construction of the Junior High School Public Facility **Gymnasium**, a part of the master plan for the Construction of the Junior High School Public Facility.

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., February 14, 2014, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman

Buckingham summons judge to testify at his trial

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham has summoned Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to testify at his trial next month.

At Buckingham's request, the Superior Court's clerk of courts issued the witness subpoena on Thursday that ordered Camacho to appear and testify at the former AG's trial on Feb. 3 at 9am.

When asked about the subpoena yesterday, Camacho said he will follow the law and appear as a witness.

"I will tell the truth of any question asked," he added.

The Office of Public Auditor filed 12 criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of a sole-source contract, among others.

OPA alleged that the then-AG Buckingham invited staff from his office to attend an August 2010 campaign party for Camacho, who was then running for delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Buckingham hired attorney Richard W. Pierce as his new

Sablan urges probe on high utility rates charged by CUC

The Public School System renewed its appeal against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s proposed rate and fee increases and called for an investigation on the existing rates CUC charges its customers.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that any increase in utility fees would further bring "financial chaos" to the school system, which has a very limited budget for utilities.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is expected to render a decision this month whether it will approve or not the rate hike petition filed by CUC. Among the many items the CPUC will need to act on are the \$2.8 million electric base rate increase and the imposition of new and higher non-rate fees for electric, water and wastewater divisions.

"Whenever there's an increase in fees—whether for power rates or non-rate fees—it's always a big concern for PSS because we have to sacrifice somewhere as these are not factored and included in our budget," Sablan said.

This fiscal year, PSS has been allocated a budget of \$33 million, of which only \$2.3 million is earmarked for utilities. PSS has 19 campuses on three islands plus central offices.

"If CPUC would approve a rate increase, let's say 10 percent, we have to look for that 10 percent somewhere! During the public hearings, we made this very clear that we're totally against the proposed increase because it would affect our schools," said Sablan.

Instead of considering the proposed rate hikes, Sablan said the CPUC should instead launch an investigation to see if the corporation is reasonably charging its customers.

"Why they are increasing the rates? Because they cancelled a contract and then penalize and pass the burden to the customers? That must be investigated by CPUC to see why CUC is all of a sudden not doing its due

counsel in the case following the disqualification of his first counsel, Brien Sers Nicholas.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman declared Buckingham a fugitive from justice for leaving the CNMI despite a criminal summons served him.

Police officers arrested Buckingham when he arrived on Saipan from Colorado and showed up at the Department of Public Safety's commissioner's office on May 28, 2013.

Buckingham, 64, left Saipan

Deadline nears to submit ballots for FSA County Committee Elections

HONOLULU, Hawaii—USDA Farm Service Agency executive director Diane Ley reminded farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers yesterday that they have until this Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, to return completed ballots to FSA. Eligible voters who have not received a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center. The last day for voters to submit completed ballots in person to local USDA Service Centers is Jan. 17, 2014. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked no later than Jan. 17.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs; conservation programs; incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities; emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.



To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age, but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. Agricultural producers in each county submitted candidate nominations during the nomination period, which ended on Aug. 1.

Close to 7,700 FSA county committee members serve in the 2,124 FSA offices nationwide. Each committee consists of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Approximately one-third of county committee seats are up for election each year. More information on county committees, such as the 2013 fact sheet and brochures, can be found on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center. **(USDA)**

HONOR ROLL

The following is Saipan Community School's Honor Roll list for the second quarter:

- 6TH GRADE**
"A" Honor 3.50-3.99
- Kate Ishida
 - Iris Lee
 - Esther Park
 - Si Hyun Park
- "B" Honor 3.00-3.49**
- Ye Lee Cha
 - Ken Song
 - Rovin Bacani
 - Jeffrey Seo
- 7TH GRADE**
"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99
- Mimi Sakano
 - Ellen Lee
- "B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49**
- Tasya Diaz
 - Vincent Tudela
 - Celina Wu
 - Sun Je Lee
 - Kevin Zhen
 - Haruya Eda
 - Geon Woo Ryu
- 8TH GRADE**
"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99
- Isaac Jang
 - Joo Young Kim
 - Harry Woo
 - Paul Heo
 - Yun Pyo Jeon
- "B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49**
- Jae Hyun Park
 - Nathanael Lim
 - Prudencio Cabrera
 - Rachel Kim
 - Judy Kim
 - Tae Yeon Kim
 - David Paik
 - Herald Lee
 - Kento Akimaru
 - Melanie He



Commonwealth of the northern mariana islands

Office of Transit Authority

Office of the Governor

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its FY 2014 1st Regular Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the COTA's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Isa Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Preliminary Agenda

I.

Call to Order

II.

Welcome & Introduction of Guest(s) & New Staff

A.

Hon. Tina Rose Muna-Barnes, Senator, Member, 32nd Guam Legislature

B.

Two new COTA Transit Operators (Drivers) vs. WIA Trainee

C.

Two COTA's Transit Operators(Drivers) and Two New Transit Information Specialists

D.

New WIA Trainee as COTA Transit Information Specialist

III.

Roll call

IV.

Adoption of Agenda

V.

Adoption of October 22, 2013 4th Regular Membership Meeting Minutes

VI.

Correspondence

VII.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

VIII.

Old Business

A.

COTA Relocated to New Office

B.

Official/Final Report: Saipan Fixed-Flex Route & Paratransit System Feasibility Study

C.

COTA's Propose Changes to HB. 18-39, "Parking Meter Act": Update

D.

Route Match Transportation Management Software & Vehicle Tracking System Contract: Status

E.

Saipan-Tinian Ferry Boat Feasibility Study RFP: Update

F.

COTA Website (www.cota.gov.mp) Redesign and Maintenance Service: Update

G.

FTA ESMS Training & Technical Assistance: Update

H.

VTCLI Grant One-Call/One-Click Transportation Information, Resource & Referral Service Center Project: Update

I.

VTCLI Grant Marketing, Outreach and Planning Project: Update

J.

COTA's USDA/CTAA Rural Transit Long-Term Technical Assistance MOU: Update

K.

cnmitransit.com: Public Transit Online Survey Forum - Completed

L.

COTA's Online Survey Monkey: Completed

M.

cota.ideascale.com: Online Transit Dialogue

N.

COTA's New Administration Bldg., & Vehicle Maintenance Facility A&E RFP: Status

IX.

New Business

A.

32nd Guam Legislative Resolution No. 279-32: Action

B.

HB. 18-140: Action

C.

HB. 18-144: Action

D.

Paratransit Vehicles/ CARS ITB's: Update

E.

Smart Card ITB: Update

F.

RFQ: COTA Multi-Year Annual Report 2011, 2012, 2013

G.

Draft COTA Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness Plan

H.

Draft COTA/VTCLI Project Performance Measures

I.

Draft Safety Management Plan

J.

Draft Asset Management Plan

K.

Creation of Ad Hoc Committee on Saipan Fixed-Flex Route Transit Bus Stops Designation

I.

Financial Status Report

A.

FY 2012 Urbanized Formula Grant

B.

FY 2013 Rural Other than Urbanized Formula Grant

C.

Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) II Grant

i.

One-Call/One-Click Transportation Service Center

ii.

Transportation Marketing, Outreach and Planning

D.

Program Income

II.

New Grant/Local Funding Status Report

A.

Propose FTA Sec. 5309 New/Small Start Grant: Action

B.

Propose FY 2014 Rural Other than Urbanized Formula Grant: Action

C.

Propose Local 2015 Budget: Action

III.

Executive Session: CPTAB may vote to go into executive session as provided under the CNMI Open Government Act

IV.

Misc.

A.

COTA's New Service Vehicle

V.

Next Meeting: April 17, 2014

VI.

Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA three (3) days in advance at 664-2682 (COTA).

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO, Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2014-001

"The Expansion of the Division of Youth Services Shelter"

Proposal packets will be available on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 30, 2014, at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

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Backgrounds checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than January 24, 2014.

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A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than January 22, 2014.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Station Apra Harbor's improved capabilities

APRA HARBOR, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor is now a 24-hour-7-days-a-week Search and Rescue response unit.

Station Apra Harbor has a newly renovated berthing and a mess deck allowing crewmembers to remain overnight at the unit and respond immediately to calls of distress or requests for assistance.

Since its establishment in September 2008, Station Apra Harbor has strived to improve its operating capability to support the communities of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Within the last two years, Station Apra Harbor received two new 45-foot response boats. The arrival of these boats expanded the unit's response capability out to 50 nautical miles off shore. Additionally, the vessels and crew are able to operate in seas up to 12 feet and 50 knot winds.

Station Apra Harbor, as part of Naval Base Guam's renovation of Sumay Cove, received new docks situated in the entrance of Sumay Cove enabling quicker response times. **(USCG)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DPS to block Marpi on Jan. 29

The Department of Public will be blocking off the northern part of the island, from Marpi north, on Jan. 29, 2014, from approximately 12pm to 3pm. The purpose of this blockage is to dispose of a significant collection of unexploded ordnance that has been collected by the department's explosive response team. DPS is requesting all visitors to these popular areas of the island to make arrangements to visit either in the morning before the 12pm deadline or after the operation is completed at 3pm. Anyone with questions can contact the Explosives Response Team operational supervisor, Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas, at 483-5818. **(DPS)**

Reminder to Cursillistas

De Colores, all Cursillistas, a reminder that Ultreya is scheduled on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7pm at the San Jose Church. **(PR)**

Lost keys

Please help find lost car keys (Nissan Altima) left in Garapan (near Elegance Café). If found, please return them to Saipan Tribune or call 789-6157.

Hopwood PTSA meeting on Thursday

Hopwood Jr. High School will have a PTSA meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, starting at 6pm in the school cafeteria. We urge and highly encouraged everyone to come and attend our meeting and help us as we plan our school fundraising activities so the school can use the funds to help support with the need of the school's daily operation or emergencies, share great ideas for school improvement, and provide some instructional strategies to our parents so they too can be of support to their children's learning on way or another.

Also, the PTSA is going to be handing out 10 great raffle prizes provided by some of Hopwood's

community partners. **(PR)**

House committee sets public hearing

The House Standing Committee on Education is inviting the general public of Saipan to a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014 at 6pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The purpose of this public hearing will be to discuss HLI 18-007, which proposes to amend Article 15, Section 2 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the election of the members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents. The following witnesses are requested to be present and provide written comments prior to the public hearing: NMC Board of Regents, NMC president, PSS commissioner, and high school principals

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written or verbal comments on or before the date of the public hearing. Contact the Office of Rep. Roman C. Benavente if you have

any questions regarding this public hearing and fax comments to (670) 664-8900 or email rep.ebenavente@gmail.com. **(PR)**

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from Jan. 13 to Jan. 16, from 9pm to 11:55pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following times:

Jan. 15 from 9am to 7pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the

training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. **(PR)**

MHS PTA meeting on Thursday

All Marianas High School parents, guardians, and students are urged to attend the MHS PTA meeting this Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6pm in the MHS Dolphin Theatre. We will get an update of MHS administration and programs, student council and elect a new treasurer. **(MHS)**

UOG spring registration ongoing

Registration for the spring 2014 semester at the University of Guam is ongoing. All students may register for spring 2014 until Jan. 17 at the Admissions & Records office located on the first floor of the UOG Field House, at UOG Satellite Offices, and online using WebAdvisor (www.uog.edu). Late registration will be held Jan. 17, 18 (WebAdvisor only), and 21.

To download the spring 2014 course schedule log on to: <http://www.uog.edu/sites/default/files/Spring2014-CourseSchedule-FINAL-103013-REV-%5BWEB%5D.pdf>.

For more information, call Admissions & Records at 735-2202 or visit online at www.uog.edu. **(UOG)**



HAIDEV V. EUGENIO

WELCOME HOME

Gov. Eloy S. Inos shares a light moment with the family of the only soldier from the CNMI who has yet to return to the island after a deployment to Afghanistan because of ongoing debriefing at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, at the welcoming of 15 returning soldiers on Thursday last week.

Perez named to Dean's List at BJU

GREENVILLE, SC—Jermaine Reina Perez, a junior Journalism and Mass Communication major of Saipan, was among approximately 1,450 Bob Jones University students who were named to the fall 2013 Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a 3.0 grade

point average.

Located in Greenville, S.C., Bob Jones University is a biblically faithful, Christian liberal arts university focused on educating the whole person to reflect and serve Christ. BJU offers a unique blend of rigorous academic programs, discipleship, and

character and leadership development.

BJU provides over 70 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, and business. BJU has over 3,000 students from every state and more than 40 countries. **(BJU)**

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
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Attorney for Plaintiff

FILED
CNMI SUPERIOR COURT
Filed: Nov 20 2013 01:37PM
Clerk Review: Nov 27 2013 02:06PM
Filing ID: 54585973
Case Number: 120047CV Rosie Ada

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 12-0047
vs.)
CHARLES D. BODDY)
and FELICIDAD C. BODDY,) NOTICE OF
Defendants.) AUCTION and
JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 13th day of November, 2012, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 30th day of January, 2014 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 454, (formerly part of original lot 345 R 162), in Sinapalo Village, Rota, containing an area of 955 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 17, the original of which was registered on September 18, 1992, as Document No. 923063, and also recorded on October 23, 1992 as Document No. 323395 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 6702347859; Fax: 6702345749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff

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Case Number: 120241CV Rosie Ada

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 12-0241
vs.)
JUANA J. CASTRO,)
Defendant.) NOTICE OF
AUCTION and
JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 23rd day of April, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 30th day of January, 2014 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. H744, (part of original 74R2, AH 74), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2058/84, the original of which was recorded 05 JUN 85 as Document No. 85 1062 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 6702347859; Fax: 6702345749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

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4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
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Attorney for Plaintiff

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 13-0012
vs.)
ROBERT M. CALVO,)
Defendant.) NOTICE OF
AUCTION and
JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of March, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 30th day of January, 2014 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 247, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, containing an area of 858 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 05, dated May 11, 1994.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
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2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 6702347859; Fax: 6702345749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

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5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Forum to address language disparities in Guam

A public forum on “Access to Language Equality” will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014, from 8am to 5pm, at the Guam Westin Resort.

This important forum targets policy makers, directors, program managers, service providers, and Language Access Service providers. It will highlight the significance of Language Access Services (interpreter and translation services) and its vital function in ensuring compliance with civil rights laws as well as mandates that are tied to federal grant awards, particularly in the judicial and health arenas.

More importantly, this forum will reinforce the need for cultural and language competence to ensure equal access for all consumers to appropriate, responsive and quality services and supports regardless of one’s race, ethnicity, gender, age, language preference, literacy, disability, and faith affiliation.

Featured speakers dur-

ing the forum include retired judge Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson who will speak about the legal mandates and disparities in the judicial system. Dr. Margaret Hattori-Uchima, a professor at the University of Guam’s School of Nursing, will speak on “Marginalization and Health Disparities.” Organizations and individuals interested in learning more about Language Access Services are invited to participate.

Training opportunity

Following the public forum on Jan. 21 there will be two days of intermediate training for interpreters and bilingual staff, to be held on Jan. 22 and 23, 2014 at the same venue. This two-day training will be by invitation only; interpreters are encouraged to attend the public forum as well.

Sponsors

This event is sponsored by a newly formed coalition: Culture

and Language Access Service Partners, or CLASP, composed of various government and non-governmental entities. CLASP’s mission is to “work together to address disparities and to support equity for all individuals through cultural and language competency.” CLASP operates under the auspices of the Governor’s PEACE Council (Prevention Education and Community Empowerment under Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center). Member organizations include the Department of Public Health and Social Services (Bureau of Community Health Services, the Guam Office of Minority Health and Project Kariñu, “Loving Our Babies”); Judiciary of Guam; Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (Prevention and Training Branch, I Famagu’on-ta, and Healing Hearts Crisis Center); Guam Community College; Guam Memorial Hospital; the University of Guam’s Center for Excellence in De-

velopmental Disabilities Research, Education and Service; Guam’s Homeland Security; and the Guam Department of Education.

According to Mariles Benavente, Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator for Project Karinu/UOG CEDERS, and CLASP member, “the objective of this forum is to facilitate understanding, awareness and resolutions to the ways Language Access Service can be enhanced locally so as to help each of our organizations strengthen and improve our response and service to the diverse cultural and ethnic populations of Guam.”

For registration or additional information, contact June Carino, Judiciary of Guam, at 475-3183; Barbara S.N. Benavente, GBHWC-PEACE office, at 477-9079 thru 9083; or Alex Silverio, DPHSS-GOMH, at 635-7474. (*Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center*)



SAIPAN-BOUND

Tourists and residents walk to a Saipan-bound United Airlines aircraft at the Guam International Airport.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Regulated navigation area notice to public rule making

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The Coast Guard will conduct public meetings to discuss changes to the regulated navigation areas in Apra Harbor, Guam, as detailed in the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Regulated Navigation Areas and Limited Access Areas Waterway Management; Apra Harbor, Guam, Docket No. USCG-2013-0935.

The Coast Guard is considering revising and consolidating existing Regulated Navigation Areas, Security Zones and Safety Zones currently in place in Apra Harbor, Guam. This action is intended to re-

place a number of redundant, potentially confusing and outdated navigation regulations with a cogent regulatory framework. The goal is to better meet the needs of the community by clarifying and streamlining requirements. The Coast Guard is soliciting comments related to navigation in Apra Harbor, Guam, including ways the Coast Guard can streamline the regulations in place while promoting safety on the waterway.

The Coast Guard is considering:

- Consolidating the existing four RNAs, (33 CFR 165.1405(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(4)

and 165.1402(a)), into one Regulated Navigational Area that addresses the waters of the Apra Harbor Channel entrance and all waters of the Apra Harbor outer harbor.

- Expanding the radius of the existing Kilo Wharf Safety Zone (33 CFR 165.1401(b)) into a series of two or three safety zone radius options based upon the volume and type of cargo transferred at Kilo Wharf, thereby optimizing harbor operations viability and personal safety.

- Removing Hotel Wharf Safety Zones A and B (33 CFR 165.1405.1(a) and (b)) due to obsolescence.

- Retaining Security Zone C, Buoy 702 (33 CFR 165.1404). This zone surrounds a permanent mooring buoy reserved for specific vessels.

Two public meetings will be held at the Port Authority Guam Building, 1026 Cabras Highway, Piti, Guam, on Jan. 22, 2014, from 12pm to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm.

To review the docket or submit online comments visit <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/01/10/2014-00280/regulated-navigation-areas-and-limited-access-areas-waterway-management-apra-harbor-guam>. (*USCG*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 15, 2006

AGO, PDO clash over alleged ex-Abu member

The Attorney General’s Office and the Public Defender’s Office are at odds over the government’s filing of a deportation case against an alleged former member of the notorious Philippine-based terrorist group Abu Sayyaf. Court records indicate that the legal dispute between AGO and PDO began when the Division of Immigration, through Assistant Attorney General Ian M. Catlett, filed a deportation case against Roger Castillo on Dec. 29, 2005. With the filing of the case, the Superior Court on that day issued an arrest warrant for Castillo. The respondent was arrested in Garapan on Dec. 31, 2005.

DPW: ‘PSS Lake’ a problem for 4 years

The Public School System’s flood problem at the Pupil Transportation Office in Lower Base finally got the attention of the Department of Public Works’ newly appointed secretary, Jose Demapan, and his staff. Demapan, together with DPW Technical Services Division director Richard Cody and other DPW engineers, went down to the office Friday afternoon to check on the situation but found that the so-called “lake” had already receded.

January 15, 2007

Tax collections drop by \$5.8M

Tax collections in fiscal year 2006 ran short of projection by \$5.8 million, despite the CNMI’s recovery of \$6 million in “cover-over” taxes from the federal government. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reported to the Legislature that FY2006 tax revenues reached only \$156 million, much less than the government’s projected collection of \$162 million. Fitial said that the decline was caused by “lower than projected collections in garment user fees, excise taxes, and wage and salary tax, as garment industry sales declined at an accelerated rate. Also, the JAL pullout that took place during the year had significant adverse impact on the tourism industry, which affected business gross revenue receipt and employment.”

Evacuation on 3 islands went smoothly

Saturday’s evacuation on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota due to a tsunami warning went smoothly and no major traffic accident was reported, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday. DPS commissioner Rebecca Warfield, in a telephone interview with Saipan Tribune, said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial made the first tsunami notice at 4:57pm, prompting the police division to start disseminating the information to the public. “We deployed the entire police department except for the police officers who had been on in the incoming shift so the incoming shift would not be affected,” said Warfield who served as the overall commander in charge of the evacuation operation.

January 15, 2008

Pawnshop is 4th armed rob victim in 7 days

A man and a juvenile were arrested shortly after they allegedly staged an armed robbery at a pawnshop in Chalan Lau Friday afternoon. Arrested were Milton Borja Camacho, 27, and a 17-year-old boy. The robbery happened at G.E.C. Pawnshop. It was the fourth armed robbery to hit Saipan in seven days. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that police responded to G.E.C. Pawnshop on Friday at 3:39pm after receiving a report about an armed robbery.

Beautify CNMI meets several goals in 2007

In 2007 Beautify CNMI challenged everyone in the Marianas to donate one day of volunteer service to their environmental campaign to make the islands a better place to live and visit. On average, three or four volunteer events occurred each weekend with over 100 people volunteering most weeks. The biggest events in 2007 were the monthly cleanups of Garapan, where over 100 people would regularly participate. The cleanups of the Navy Hill Lighthouse were also very popular. The single largest cleanup of the year was the NMDOA- and JSTA-sponsored cleanup of Obyan Beach. Over 250 people participated. During an interview in January 2007, Beautify CNMI told the media that in 2007 they were going to set out to create an Animal Welfare committee, continue tree plantings and cleanups, hold Managaha recycling and Beautiful Village contests, hold a tree care workshop, support the Micronesia Challenge, and start removing junk cars.

Island Snapshots



Cadets from Saipan Southern High School proudly pose with their new Army Service uniform to represent Manta Ray Battalion. Top row, C/CSM Catilo Kenneth, C/CPT Andrada Amante, C/CPT Morales Kristofer, and C/CPT Palacios Jude. Middle row, C/CPT Calub Condrad, C/Sgt.1st Class Ongelungel Ayana, and C/Sgt.1st Class Mendiola Sergio. Bottom row, C/1LT Mafnas Danielle, C/2LT Alipio Steffie, and C/CPT Dela Cruz Ella.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion JROTC performs color guard duties at the recognition and commissioning of Brandon Demapan to second lieutenant on Dec. 14, 2013, at the Multi-Purpose Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Saipan Southern Manta Ray Battalion poses with active duty soldiers at the commissioning of Brandon Demapan to second lieutenant on Dec. 14, 2013, at the Multi-Purpose Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School JROTC performs color guard duties at the 2013 CNMI/ Guam Goodwill Game and CFLA Youth Season on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, for the championship game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy, happy birthday greetings go out to Mrs. Catherine Acera-Cabrera, SAES teacher, who is celebrating her birthday today, Jan.15! May you be blessed with many, many more birthdays to come and we hope you enjoy your day! Much love coming your loving hubby, Marlon, your three cubs, Caleb, Calen, and Cayli Mae, all your family and friends, and most especially your SAES Gamson family!

Belated happy birthday to Miss Tita Gabredo, who is celebrated her birthday on Jan. 14. May the good Lord above continue to bless you all the days of your life with many more birthdays to come! Much love always coming from your two sons, Chris and Marlon, your daughter-in-law Cat, your grandchildren, Caleb, Calen, and Cayli Mae, all of your friends and family, as well as your entire MHS Dolphin family! We love you! Have a great one!



This happy birthday shoutout goes out to Czarina Isabel Jucutan-Mory, who feels like but really is turning 22 today, Jan. 15! Here's to you and many more birthdays to come! Although you may be far away we still want to wish and celebrate you today, Saipan time. Much love coming from your parents, your brothers, all your friends, and your "Aunt Jenna."



The Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard is presented with a certificate of appreciation for performing in three color guard events (Saipan vs. Guam, opening remarks, and championship).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



From right to left, C/CSM Catilo Kenneth, C/Sgt. Jeung Dianna, C/2LT Mafnas Danielle, C/Sgt.1st Class Ongelungel Ayana, C/2LT Alipio Steffie, and C/CPT Bandalas Lizel. Chaperoned by Sgt. Maj. Joaquin Kiyoshi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signs a proclamation declaring January 2014 Human Trafficking Awareness Month on Friday at the conference room of the Office of the Governor. Looking on are, from left, former U.S. Labor ombudsman and now Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law president Pamela Brown, Guma Esperansa director Laurie Ogomoro, and CNMI Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Flu is no joke; get a shot

Health officials say it appears similar to the one that ran rampant in 2009. In the 2009-10 flu season, 284,000 people died from swine flu worldwide.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the flu is in full swing in many parts of the country. The latest CDC figures from the final week of 2013 show significant flu activity in 25 states, especially in the bigger ones such as New York, Texas and Illinois.

Classic flu symptoms include aching body, fever, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, runny nose and extreme sneezing. But anyone who has been afflicted with this particular strain of flu knows that each of those symptoms, which may sound like a common cold, manifest in exceptionally aggressive and uncomfortable ways. And did we mention they can kill?

During the 2009 outbreak, many people did not get a flu shot because of a shortage of vaccine. But vaccine is plentiful this year, and it's available not only at hospitals and clinics but at many pharmacies and even grocery stores. There is no good reason not to get a shot.

At particular risk are older adults, children under 5 and anyone who has heart or lung disease, diabetes, asthma or who may be pregnant.

The CDC advises everyone to get a flu shot each year and take additional preventive action by washing hands and avoiding contact with sick people. But it's important to know the signs of the flu and treat them immediately. See a doctor and take all the medication prescribed.

And don't even think about treating this flu as something to "power through." It is neither heroic nor admirable to show up at work or school with it. It is stupid for you and inconsiderate of others.

This is all common sense, but it's amazing how widely it's ignored from year to year. So we're trying again. Get a shot.

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Rodman's game

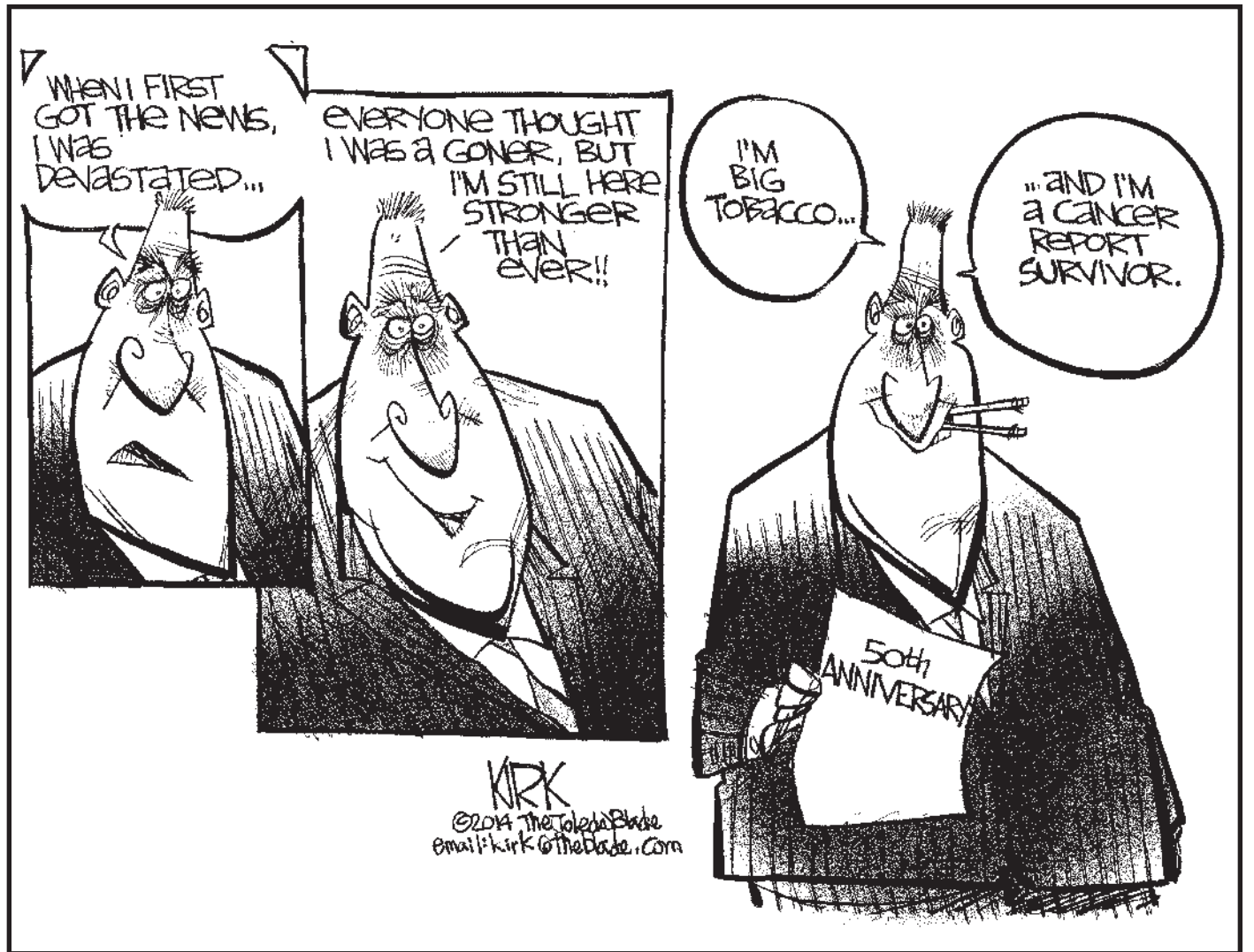
Dennis Rodman's unlikely basketball diplomacy to North Korea brings new meaning to the term "globetrotter."

Like the world-famous Harlem team, Mr. Rodman has been accused of clowning his way across the world stage. But unlike the antics of the Harlem Globetrotters, those of the former NBA great as an occasional guest of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un are neither funny nor scripted.

Mr. Rodman and a squad of former NBA players were in Pyongyang for a game last Wednesday against North Korea's best players on the dictator's birthday. The trip came just after the purge and execution of Mr. Kim's uncle and while the United States is trying to obtain release of imprisoned American missionary Kenneth Bae.

Mr. Rodman is not an ambassador, official or otherwise, and he has not been schooled in the intricacies of foreign policy or his host's brutal history. He is a celebrity who has captured the attention of one of the world's most reclusive leaders. Like it or not, Mr. Rodman humanizes Americans to the head of a regime that paints them as demons.

See RODMAN'S on next page



Mawlid al-Nabi

Mawlid is Arabic for "birth" and our title translates as the birth of a person named *Abū al-Qāsim Muḥammad ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn 'Abd al-Muṭṭalib ibn Hāshim*, translated for those of us with short attention spans as simply "Muhammad the Prophet."

One of the obvious virtues of the Muslim faith is its aversion toward anything iconic, considering that to be idolatrous. Thus, one hardly sees any representation of Mohammed (the spelling of the Prophet's name in my upbringing). Some named after him prefer to be called Mahmud pronounced with an aspirated accent on the first syllable.

Islamic practice in Saudi Arabia discourages any birthday celebrations of the Prophet, religious or otherwise. A meaning of the word "Allah" is translated as "that which is the No-thing." Iconic representations are a big no-no, and worldwide imams assailed a commercial film that personified Allah's last seer.

Not so in the Christian tradition. Heinrich Hofmann's *Agony in Gethsemane* painting is empathetically full of affectations that imprinted in my imagination the common iconic image of Jesus, along with Walter Sallman's blond and blue-eyed *The Head of Jesus*. In both, the Jesus portrayed is the preferred *brunkoff* (brownhead) of the Ruhr valley with a flowing reddish mane and distinctively Teutonic crystal blue eyes. Even after Nazi Germany was criticized and defeated for its promotion of racial supremacy, the common image of the Jesus in our time is more Aryan than Semitic.

Even Mel Gibson's gory portrayal of Jesus' twelve stations of the cross in the movie *Passion of the Christ* literally straight out of the four Gospel narratives, albeit through the eyes of the visionary *stigmata* mystic Anna Katharina Emmerick, passion did not come through as much as judgmental gore.

Islam's stringent and transcendent monotheism emanated from the market of Mecca where every iconic representation was promoted in every trade route coming from all four corners of the desert. Monotheism had adequate basis from the traditions of Yahweh of the children of Abraham, and Christos among the followers of Jesus. With the Graeco-Roman elevation of the resurrected Jesus as the *Christo Rei*, Christ the King, it did not take long before the laidback prophet of Mecca became the desert's flaming avatar, up to the Ottoman Empire. Some militant faithful still regard the image as the role model for ridding unfaithful infidels!

But as the Christmas tradition of the baby Jesus engulfed the liturgy of Christendom, *Mawlid al-Nabi* is now observed in most predominantly Islamic countries, and in nations with significant Muslim population such as England, Canada, India, and Russia. Of course, this is without the sentimentalism of the child in swaddling clothes, though it's the division between Shia and Sunni adherents, the religion is hardly homogenous.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



However, an Islamic revival is happening in our time, though mostly noticed by news media as the actions of extremists who promote violent cleansing of the infidel, in this instance painfully personified by Uncle Sam's actuations in its imperialistic history of oil exploration and corporate greed in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. But the *Mawlid* is clearly part of the revival with practices involving both sacred and profane elements.

Often organized by Sufis, the mystical adherents to the inner essence of Islam before its external manifestations like Sharia law, the *Mawlid* has a carnival flavor with large street processions, brightly lit mosques, and gaily decorated homes, the latter two becoming centers for food distribution and other works of charity. Children recite poetry about the life of Muhammad, and scholars as well as poets recite literary materials made famous by previous poets and scholars.

From Palestine to Peshawar, Morocco to Mumbai, there is a chaotic and incoherent taste to the spectacle of numerous events held simultaneously in a fireworks and festive atmosphere, embracing a comprehensive affirmation of the contemporary and the ordinary as an expression of the Sufi's concept of the universality of Islamic precepts and the pre-existence of Muhammad's prophetic style.

There were two mosques and two gathering places for Muslims on Saipan in 2000, with perhaps about 4,000 adherents who faithfully did their ablutions before the call to prayers, but the RC Christians were too defensive in their demeanor and the evangelical Protestant congregations too assertive of their zeal to convert "the heathens" that, as the local pastor of the tiny Methodist congregation desperately trying to survive, I hardly had any occasion to show my ecumenical bent.

I had an ethnic Muslim *Hui* in my class two semesters ago, and it is ironic that I would have to come to China before I could listen to the poetry of the call to *salat*:

Allaahu Akbar (4x), Ashhadu Allah ilaaha illa-Lah (2x),

Ash Hadu anna Muhamadan rasulullah (2x).

Hayya 'alas Salaah (2x); Hayya 'alal Falaah (2x).

Aliaahu Akbar: Laa ilaaha illa-Lah!

You want the translation, too? Pay your local imam a visit!

Guarding local complicity

The complicity of local government accepting federal programs without realistic fiscal assessment of their unintended consequences would present deeper fiscal trouble ahead.

Specifically, would programs we've embraced, i.e., Obamacare and Medicaid, help lift or sink our fiscal posture when money under these programs taper off?

Is our illustrious and esteemed delegate wary of this and what has he done to keep us abreast? Has Kilili donned the mask of the fattest beggar in D.C.? Where's the courageous use of his intelligence or has he parked it in escrow?

The main contractor of Obamacare has been replaced for the massive rollout failure last year. Shouldn't the CNMI step back until this mess is fixed, including resolution of 11 former AGs suing Obama for his unconstitutional cherry picking of provisions in the law he's changed unilaterally without congressional approval? Does Kilili have anything to say on this score?

The other more egregiously paternalistic federal imposition is the takeover of immigration control. It's a given that the U.S. Congress has sole authority on this matter. Nonetheless, was there in fact a need for it and did liberal progressives scaffold the local economy for the annihilating eventuality—exodus of about \$7 billion in foreign capital or did it simply say, “sink or swim?”

Or was the takeover purely a political display of paternalism hailing from liberal progressives in Washington who never had to suffer the consequences of their imposition? Is Rep. George Miller an economist or at least sold drinks from a lemonade stand to know business transactions at the rudimentary level? Or is he just a bully of a fast disintegrating union organization countrywide? Glad to know he's not seeking re-election this year.

This issue alone completely and irreparably drained the trust we once had with the feds. Fixing the mess via a dog and pony show could have done the job. But then came the Miller Trojan horse. Here we are today, a torched investment venue where dystopia turns into our daily bread. It pays to stay on top of this and other issues hailing from D.C. A snoozing delegate is the least we need today.

On need for CW workers

The seesaw debate on the fate of CW workers has turned into fear-

ful blather. Locals are worried they may not find jobs while guest workers ponder their future.

Realistically, though, we don't have the needed warm bodies to cover the tourism industry if extension is denied CW workers. The industry would take a quick nosedive into complete disarray. How do we replace 12,000 workers?

Over the years, we've gotten accustomed to “our way” on immigration. Now it's the feds' way, destructive it may be without reasonable transition period of at least 10 years. The training programs being streamlined to place more locals in the job market involve a process. The process is a protracted one, i.e., trainees must go through training sessions in the various trades, from simple cooking to gardening. Some would make it while others may drop out.

Locals aren't necessarily lazy but any employee at the entry level bounces around to find which job pays more or what's the opportunity for upward mobility.

We need to be civil about this issue by fostering and nurturing fellowship, reciprocity, and fraternity, given the immediacy of their services we can't cover at this juncture.

On self-government

We sound almost professorial when addressing the loss of self-government, blaming the feds and others for our obvious misgivings. But what did we lose under the agreement?

We grandly ignore that since 1978 we've elected indigenous folks to navigate the formation and strengthening of our democratic institutions. How do you rate the performance of leadership since 36 years ago?

Politicians have soundly ensured the insolvency and bankruptcy of the retirement program, piling it with excess baggage until it sank under its own weight! Do we blame Uncle Sam for this mess? What have we done to reform it into a “cash balance” institution?

The CNMI juggles fiscal impotence, steadily sinking in the filthy swamp of bankruptcy with some \$478 million in cumulative debt. What has leadership—all indigenous folks at the helm—done in substantive fashion to stop the bleeding? Isn't the CNMI basically a fiscal hemophiliac?

former Obama administration official who's now the dean of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

When big powers turn a local conflict into a proxy war, they can have three terrible effects. They make the war more destructive, by pumping in more advanced weapons than were there before. They often make the war longer, by making it possible for each side to keep fighting indefinitely. And they create spillover effects in neighboring countries, including refugee crises, an increased flow of weapons and the recruitment and training of insurgents.

In 1979, when the United States began supporting Afghanistan's mujahedin in a proxy war with the Soviet Union, the move seemed like a convenient way to harass a Cold War rival. But the side effects included the rise of al-Qaida and the Taliban, and Afghanistan's civil war still isn't over.

These days, much of the Middle East is embroiled in civil war, insurgency or unrest. And nearly every one of the conflicts has been intensified by the regional struggle between Saudi Arabia, ruled by Sunni Muslims, and Iran, the largest Shiite Muslim state.

On one level, of course, it's a continuation of a centuries-old conflict between the two main branches of Islam. But it's also a straightforward conflict between two countries seeking to be the dominant power in the Persian Gulf. That struggle for power has spilled over into other countries' battles.

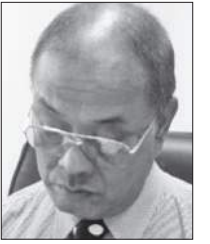
Take Syria. The 2011 uprising there began as a domestic revolt against repression, but it quickly turned into both a sectarian conflict (between a Sunni-led opposition and a regime dominated by Alawites, a Shiite offshoot) and a geopolitical proxy war. Iran, the Assad regime's main ally, rushed weapons and military advisors to Damascus. Lebanon's Hezbollah, another Iranian client, sent seasoned combat troops to help the regime.

The Obama administration hesitated to provide military aid to

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



Did we lift a finger as some \$7 billion in foreign capital took an exodus from the islands? Appalling how we've treated this issue like some fly by cotton ball.

Does the CNMI need a 29-member bicameral legislature with an annual expenditure of more than \$4.8 million? What has it done to improve investments or ease the cost of living?

Then we have boards and commissions that also make rules and regulations (basically new sets of laws) and even charge fees—a form of taxation—that we must pay on top of our income tax and other forms of taxes. Why milk taxpayers of more than its share?

The CNMI is also riddled with redundancies in its operations we've accepted as part of self-government. For instance, we have a sizeable Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, yet there's also Indigenous Affairs, Carolinian Affairs, Women's Affairs, and other affairs in public office. The renegotiation being sought with the feds must begin right here at home among the elected elite groping for answers from its own inadequacies.

Reciprocal land policy

Two weeks ago on the front page of *PDN* was a couple from the CNMI who were awarded housing and land to keep upon completing the terms and conditions of the program.

Both were born and raised in the CNMI. The family moved to Guam in search of greener pasture. It's finally found what it was searching for as they begin anew.

The opportunity given this couple brought a vital issue to mind: shouldn't the CNMI work on reciprocal land policy for Chamorros from Guam?

Syria and the perils of proxy war

The first war I covered as a foreign correspondent was the civil war in Lebanon. When the conflict began in 1975, it was just a series of skirmishes, a nasty but limited little war for control of a small nation.

Then other countries got involved: Syria, Iraq, Libya and Israel. They supplied money and weapons to their favored factions, turning an internal struggle into a longer, more deadly proxy war in which outside powers fought one another through surrogates.

Eventually even the United States sent troops, which is why 241 Americans died in a bombing in Beirut in 1983. The conflict that began almost 40 years ago has never quite come to an end, thanks in large part to its use by others as a battleground for proxy war.

Today, though, Lebanon's street battles and car bombings are merely a small part of a mushrooming regional proxy war that extends across both Syria and Iraq to the shores of the Persian Gulf. Two big powers, Iran and Saudi Arabia, have squared off in a competition for dominance in much of the Arab Middle East. Other countries are either choosing sides or nervously trying to protect themselves from the spillover. And the United States finds itself uncomfortably in the middle.

Proxy war is nothing new. In 1776, Britain and France, the great powers of their day, used the American Revolution as a proxy war. (Without the French navy fighting on our side in Chesapeake Bay, it is unlikely Washington would have won at Yorktown.) In the 1930s, the Spanish Civil War turned into a proxy battle between Hitler and Stalin. Much of the half-century-long Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union was a series of proxy wars, arm's-length conflicts between nuclear powers that didn't dare collide head-on.

But the fact that proxy wars happen mostly in small countries doesn't make them any less destructive than other conflicts. Quite the contrary: “Proxy wars tear countries apart,” warns Vali Nasr, a

former Obama administration official who's now the dean of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

When big powers turn a local conflict into a proxy war, they can have three terrible effects. They make the war more destructive, by pumping in more advanced weapons than were there before. They often make the war longer, by making it possible for each side to keep fighting indefinitely. And they create spillover effects in neighboring countries, including refugee crises, an increased flow of weapons and the recruitment and training of insurgents.

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The Obama administration hesitated to provide military aid to

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



the rebels—but Saudi Arabia, seeing the regional stakes, jumped in with cash. Some of the Saudi money went to support Islamist fighters who worried the United States. The Assad regime, fighting for its life, turned to bombing civilian areas from the air.

As a result, the war now appears likely to last longer, kill more civilians and create more spillover effects in neighboring countries than before. The United Nations and the United States hope to launch a peace conference for Syria on Jan. 22, but nobody expects quick results.

U.S. officials are looking for ways to stop the conflicts from spreading—short of direct military intervention, which the Obama administration has repeatedly rejected.

“It has reached a point where it is impossible for us to ignore,” Nasr told me last week. “We shouldn't throw up our hands and say, ‘These are proxy wars and it's out of control.’”

The United States doesn't need to put troops “in the middle of every conflict,” as a White House aide scoffed last week. But neither can it ignore the spread of proxy wars. President Obama has said he would like to devote less of his attention to the Middle East. But now is not the time.

RODMAN'S

From Page 10

It would be unwise for Mr. Rodman to intercede on behalf of Mr. Bae, who has been held in North Korea since November 2012. And the athlete's remarks Tuesday implying that Mr. Bae was responsible for his own captivity were not helpful. (He apologized for them Thursday.)

Still, Mr. Rodman has a value to U.S. interests as an American to whom Mr. Kim can relate. Assuming he's debriefed after his visits for insights to the dictator's moods, Dennis Rodman is the closest thing the State Department has to an ear in Pyongyang.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Watch out!

I just wanted to warn my cyclist friends and anyone else out there to be careful when walking, riding or running south past the Hafadai Hotel in Garapan. Today I was almost hit by a van making an illegal left-hand turn out of the parking lot despite the three signs posted saying either “No left turn” or “Right turn only” and the median in the middle of the road which extends north past the exit. When I went to complain to the security guard, he said I needed to complain to the front desk. They said the person I needed to talk to was off

today. Have you ever had a situation like this? You're either going to give up or just get madder. When I pursued it, the clerk went in the office to speak to someone, but then came out and told me they don't speak enough English to hear my concern. As this was all happening, a large tour bus exited left out of the parking lot. If I hadn't already been hit by a car five months ago, I suppose I would have let it go, but in this case, I wanted to warn people to be careful crossing in front of this hotel just in case the signs are being ignored.






Susan Marchitti

Via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 80

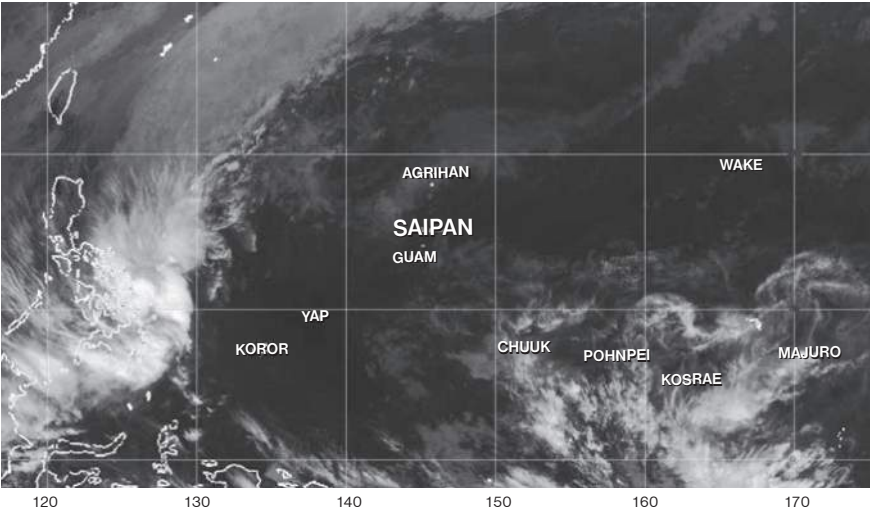
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 66
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 45 ▼ 22
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 56
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 66
London	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 48
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 107 ▼ 76
Miami	Showers	▲ 68 ▼ 48
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 35
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 39
Paris	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 32
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 45
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 33
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 23
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 33

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
8:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima near 25N160E to 21N151E then continues as a shear line passing north of Saipan near 17N146E to 15N140E and then to the west to near 16N130E. Low-level cloudiness and scattered showers are observed along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. A couple of weak shear lines meander westward from east of Wake Island near 21N180 to end near 21N168E and from near 18N180 to 16N170E to 12N160E and to end east of Guam near 13N149E. Patchy clouds and rain exist up to 150 miles north of these boundaries. A near-equatorial trough runs across Micronesia from south of Koror near 1N135E to south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae to end near EQ165E. Showers have ended west of 150E, however, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of a line from 7N150E to 4N160E to EQ170E. Convergence within the intertropical convergence zone is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in the southern Marshalls and south of Kosrae within 160 miles of a line from 7N172E to 2N163E. The showers become weaker farther to the east within 120 miles of a line from 7N172E to 18N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:23 PM	5:41 AM
Thursday	6:12 PM	6:26 AM
Friday	7:00 PM	7:08 AM
Saturday	7:48 PM	7:49 AM
Sunday	8:36 PM	8:29 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Huge spending bill would bury budget battles

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top congressional negotiators Monday night released a bipartisan \$1.1 trillion spending bill that

would pay for the operations of government through October and finally put to rest the bitter budget battles of last year.

The massive measure fleshes out the details of the budget deal that Congress passed last month. That pact gave relatively modest,

but much-sought relief to the Pentagon and domestic agencies after deep budget cuts last year.

The bill would avert spending cuts that threatened construction of new aircraft carriers and next-generation Joint Strike Fighters. It maintains rent subsidies for the poor, awards federal civilian and military workers a 1 percent raise and beefs up security at U.S. embassies across the globe. The Obama administration would be denied money to meet its full commitments to the International Monetary Fund but get much of the money it wanted to pay for implementation of the new health care law and the 2010 overhaul of financial regulations.

The 1,582-page bill was released after weeks of negotiations between House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold

Rogers, R-Ky., and Senate counterpart Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., who kept a tight lid on the details until its release late Monday.

"This agreement shows the American people that we can compromise, and that we can govern," Mikulski said. "It puts an end to shutdown, slowdown, slamdown politics."

The GOP-led House is slated to vote on the measure Wednesday, less than 48 hours after it became public. In their campaign to take over the House in 2010, Republicans promised a 72-hour review period. On Tuesday, the House is slated to approve a short-term funding bill to extend the Senate's deadline to finish the overall spending bill until midnight on Saturday. The current short-term spending bill expires at

midnight Wednesday evening.

The measure doesn't contain in-your face victories for either side. The primary achievement was that there was an agreement in the first place after the collapse of the budget process last year, followed by a 16-day government shutdown and another brush with a disastrous first-ever default on U.S. obligations. After the shutdown and debt crisis last fall, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray, D-Wash., struck an agreement to avoid a repeat of the 5 percent cut applied to domestic agencies last year and to prevent the Pentagon from absorbing about \$20 billion in new cuts on top of the ones that hit it last year.

Pizza Hut to offer 'by the slice' amid competition

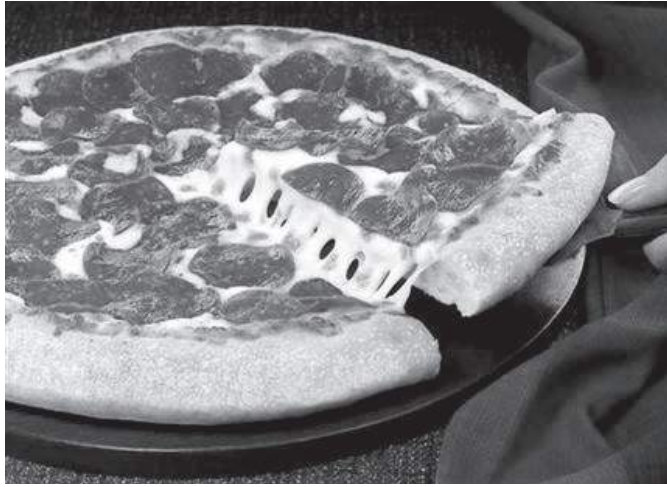
NEW YORK (AP)—Pizza Hut plans to start offering pizza by the slice for the first time in two locations this week, part of a test to refashion its image and court diners in their 20s and 30s.

The chain says the two locations—one in York, Neb. and Pawtucket, R.I.—will open Tuesday.

A slice will cost between \$2 and \$3 and take three to four minutes to heat up. They'll be made with new recipes more in line with the thinner pies sold in the Northeast.

The tests reflect how established restaurant chains are scrambling to keep pace with a rapidly changing industry. Diners are increasingly flocking to places such as Chipotle, where they feel they can get restaurant-quality food for just a little more than they would pay at fast-food chains such as Burger King.

In fact, Chipotle recently announced plans to move into the pizza business with Pizzeria Locale. Customers walk up to a counter and can watch as their pizza is built; the pie is then placed in an oven that



This handout photo provided by Pizza Hut, shows a hand-tossed pizza.

cooks it in about 2 minutes. Other pizza chains feature similar fast-cooking, make-your-own concepts, including Blaze Pizza, based in Pasadena, Calif., and Pizza Studio, based in Los Angeles.

For its part, Pizza Hut has been focusing on developing its smaller format carry-out stores rather than its dine-in restaurants in recent years as its sales have been choppy. In each of the first three quarters of 2013, sales fell slightly at locations open at least year.

"We're seeing the trends for quick and ready products," noted Carrie Walsh, Pizza Hut's chief marketing officer.

Rival Domino's has also been selling pizza by the slice at some of its newly designed stores, according to a spokesman. Pizza Hut's parent company, Yum Brands Inc., is also testing a more upmarket concept with its KFC chain called "KFC eleven." And McDonald's, the world's biggest hamburger chain, is testing a "build-your-own burger" concept in Laguna Niguel, Calif.

To join Delta's elite, count dollars as well as miles

By **KELLY YAMANOUCHI**
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

For the first time in decades, the loyalty of Delta Air Lines' elite frequent fliers isn't being measured by miles or flying alone.

Instead, cold, hard cash has been added to the equation.

It will now take at least \$2,500 in spending annually to reach Delta's Medallion status—on top of the typical requirement of flying 25,000 miles.

The shift reflects airlines' increasing focus on the most lucrative, high-spending corporate travelers. By making elite status even more exclusive, Atlanta-based Delta is reserving its best perks, best service, best seats and best food for them.

Effective Jan. 1 this year, Delta is requiring \$2,500 of spending to reach silver Medallion status, \$5,000 for gold, \$7,500

for platinum and \$12,500 for diamond—in addition to existing requirements to fly 25,000, 50,000, 75,000 and 125,000 miles, respectively, to reach those levels.

Delta is not alone in adding a spending requirement. United Airlines launched a similar standard, and Southwest Airlines' frequent-flier program also has a spending component.

"Elite status, from the airlines' perspective, has always been principally about rewarding customers for their revenue contribution to the company," said Tim Winship, publisher of FrequentFlier.com. In the past, it was easier to use miles as a proxy. Now that technology has made it easier to track spending, he said, "this is ... the realization of the original intent of elite status."

Frequent-flier program watch-

ers say the shift could eventually spread beyond elite status to the general frequent-flier program—with the possibility of points for free flights being based more on dollars spent, instead of miles flown.

For the Delta elite, spending this year—measured in "Medallion Qualification Dollars"—counts toward elite status for 2015. The spending requirement is waived for those who spend \$25,000 a year on a Sky-Miles American Express card.

"For the truly frequent travelers who spend the most on Delta, at platinum and diamond status, they'll likely be happier about this, because there will be fewer people they have to fight with for upgrades and for getting on the plane first and that kind of thing," said Chris McGinnis, publisher of The Ticket, an online newsletter for travelers.

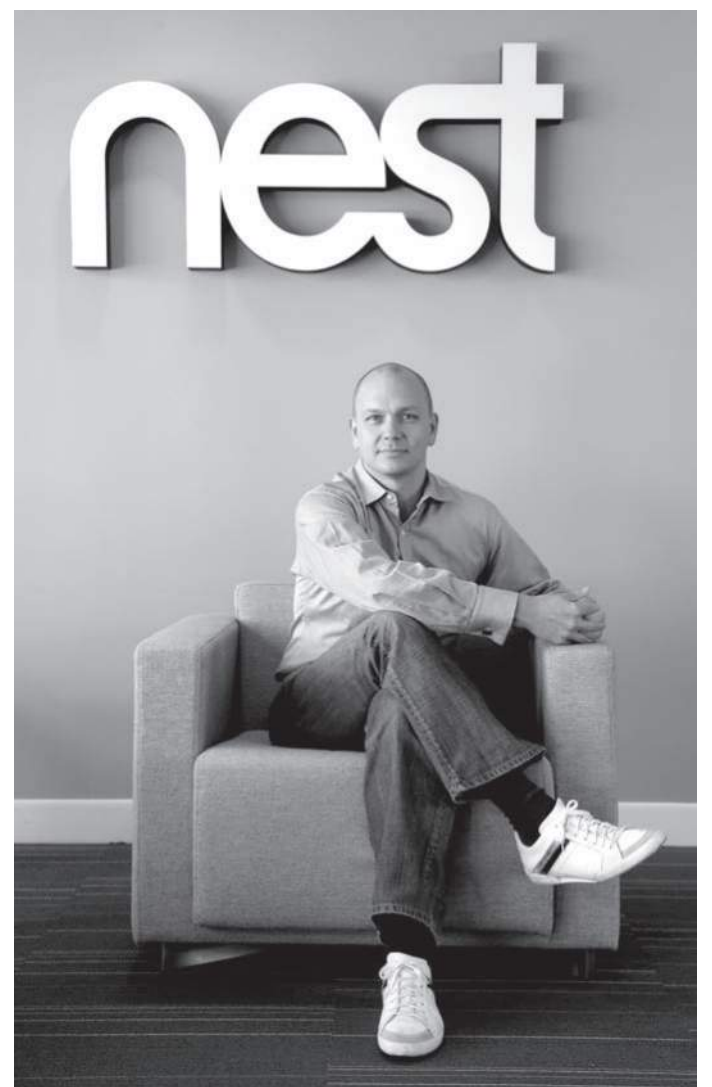
Google says it will buy Nest Labs for \$3.2B

NEW YORK (AP)—Google will pay \$3.2 billion to buy Nest Labs, which develops high-tech versions of devices like thermostats and smoke detectors, in its second-largest acquisition ever.

The search engine operator was an early investor in Nest Labs. It says the company's Nest Learning Thermostat has been a "consistent best-seller." The thermostat, which retails for \$249, is designed to learn how inhabitants like their homes to be heated and cooled. Once it learns the consumers' preferences, it automatically adjusts the temperature on its own.

Its Nest Protect alarm is intended to be less annoying than traditional alarms: when it detects rising smoke or carbon monoxide levels, it lights up yellow and speaks with human voice, giving consumers an option to turn the device off if there is no emergency. They can stop the alert by waving an arm. The Nest Protect costs \$129 while an older smoke and carbon monoxide detector could cost \$50 to \$80.

Analyst Shyam Patil of Wedbush Securities said Google is positioning itself to offer products that work on the "Internet of Things"—specifically a "connected home" full of intelligent wireless devices that collect data and could be controlled with a smartphone. The "Internet of Things" is a global network that not only links computers, tablets and phones but connects everything from bikes to washing machines to



In this Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2013, file photo, Tony Fadell, Founder and CEO of Nest, poses for a portrait in the company's offices in Palo Alto, Calif.

thermostats. Last year Google introduced Chromecast, a device that lets users connect their TVs and mobile devices.

"It's a big market opportunity

and it provides Google with good technology to attack it over time," Patil said in a telephone interview. He has a "Neutral" rating on Google shares.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,257.94	1,819.20	4,113.30
-179.11	-23.17	-61.36
-1.09%	-1.26%	-1.47%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.1059	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7543
British Pound	0.6103	Indian Rupee	61.49
Canadian Dollar	1.0885	Indonesian Rupiah	12050
Chinese Yuan	6.0452	Japanese Yen	103.3225
Euro	0.7318	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2674
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1924
		Philippine Peso	44.74
		Singapore Dollar	1.2676
		South Korean Won	1059.63
		Swiss Franc	0.9004
		Taiwan Dollar	30.0425
		Thailand Baht	32.81

Nation

Health care signups: More older Americans so far

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's an older, costlier crowd that's signing up so far for health insurance under President Barack Obama's law, according to government figures released Monday. Enrollments are lower for the healthy, younger Americans who will be needed to keep premiums from rising.

Young adults from 18 to 34 are only 24 percent of total enrollment, the administration said in its first signup figures broken down for age, gender and other details. With the HealthCare.gov website now working, the figures cover the more than 2 million Americans who had signed up for government-subsidized private insurance through the end of December in new federal and state markets.

Enrolling young and healthy people is important because they generally pay more into the system than they take out, subsidizing older adults. While 24 percent is not a bad start, say independent experts, it should be closer to 40 percent to help keep premiums down.

Adults ages 55-64 were the most heavily represented in the signups, accounting for 33 percent of the total. Overall, the premiums paid by people in that demographic don't fully cover their medical expenses. Some are in the waiting room for Medicare; that coverage starts at age 65.

Some questions remained unanswered.

For example, the administration is unable to say how many of those enrolling for coverage had been previously uninsured. Some might have been among the more than 4.7 million insured people whose previous policies were canceled because they didn't meet the law's standards.

"The uninsured folks for whom the law was intended don't seem to have signed up in nearly as high numbers," said Richard Foster, a former statistics chief for the Health and Human Services department. "There is still a huge unknown aspect to this."

But even if the age mix remains tilted toward older adults, "it's nothing of the sort that would trigger instability in the system," said Larry Levitt, an insurance expert with the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. Premiums would go up next year for the overhaul, along with taxpayer costs per enrollee, but not enough to push the system into a "death spiral" in which rising premiums discourage healthy people from signing up.

Levitt and other experts expected older, sicker people to be more heavily represented in the early numbers. They would have had strong motivation to persevere in the face of website dysfunction.

Still, he said "it underscores a need to heighten outreach efforts to young people." Adults ages 18-34 represent 40 percent of the target group for the health care law, according to a recent Kaiser study. Open enrollment ends March 31.

Considering that the federal health care website was down most of the time in October, administration officials said they were pleased that the percentage of young adults was as high as it was.

"We think that more and more young people are going to sign up as time goes by," said Gary Cohen, head of the HHS office in charge of Obama's push to cover the uninsured. And there's a hammer, too: Those who fail to sign up face a tax penalty in 2015 for being uninsured.

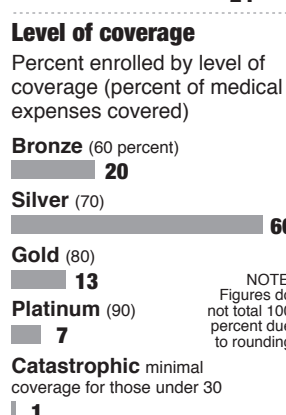
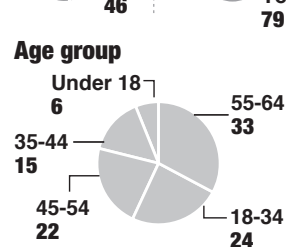
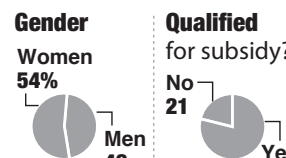
With Monday's numbers, a fuller picture has started to emerge of who's signing up.

Some of the highlights:

- The administration continues to play catch-up. Originally,

Who's enrolling

Demographics of the almost 2.2 million Americans who have successfully signed up for health insurance as of Dec. 28, 2013, under the Affordable Care Act:



NOTE: Figures do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2014 MCT

officials hoped to sign up more than 3.3 million people through the end of 2013, nearly halfway to the goal of 7 million enrollments by the end of March. Instead, enrollment as of Dec. 31 was not quite 2.2 million.

- Fifty-four percent of those who signed up were women, a slightly higher proportion of females than in the population.

- Nearly four out of five who signed up got financial help with their premiums.

- The most popular coverage option was a so-called silver plan, which covers about 70 percent of expected medical costs. Three out of five people picked silver. One in five picked a lower-cost bronze plan. Only 13 percent picked gold, which most closely compares to the typical employer plan. Another 7 percent went for top-tier platinum plans, and about 1 percent picked skimpy "catastrophic" plans available only to certain groups of people, including those under 30.

- A few states accounted for a huge share of the enrollment. California alone had 23 percent of the signups. California, New York, Florida, Texas and North Carolina accounted for nearly half the total.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hawaii health director died of cardiac arrhythmia

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's health director died of an irregular heartbeat that was triggered when a small plane she was riding in lost power and crash-landed off the Hawaiian island of Molokai, police said Monday. Loretta Fuddy's irregular heartbeat was the result of stress from the Dec. 11 crash, Maui police announced, revealing the findings of an autopsy conducted two days after the crash. The pilot and seven other passengers on the Makani Kai Air flight survived without major injuries. Pilot Clyde Kawasaki and a passenger who swam to shore have said Fuddy appeared fine while bobbing in the water after everyone exited the plane and waited for help. Rescuers eventually pulled Kawasaki and the others from the water.

Ex-Fla. cop accused in fatal shooting over texting

WESLEY CHAPEL, Fla. (AP)—An argument over texting in a Florida movie theater Monday triggered a retired Tampa police captain to fatally shoot a man sitting in front of him, as about 25 horrified moviegoers looked on, sheriff's officials said. Curtis Reeves, 71, has been charged with second-degree murder and it's not immediately clear whether he has retained an attorney. Pasco County Sheriff's officials said the shooting happened when Reeves asked 43-year-old Chad Oulson to stop texting at the theater in Wesley Chapel, a suburb about a half hour north of downtown Tampa. Reeves and his wife were sitting behind Oulson and his wife. Oulson told Reeves that he was texting with his 3-year-old daughter, Cummings said.

Officers acquitted in California homeless death

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Two California police officers who were videotaped in a violent struggle with a homeless man during an arrest were acquitted Monday of killing him. It was a rare case in which police officers were charged in a death involving actions on duty. Jurors took only about two days to reach their verdicts. The arrest was captured on a 33-minute surveillance video that was key evidence at the trial. It showed Kelly Thomas struggling with six police officers, who hit, kneed and jolted him with an electric stun gun as he was on the ground, calling out for his father over and over again.

After spill, water ban lifted for part of W.Va.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—Safe tap water gushed from faucets and shower heads in West Virginia on Monday, a welcome sight and sound for a small fraction of the 300,000 people who have not been able to use running water since a chemical spill five days ago.

It could still be days before everyone in the Charleston metropolitan area is cleared to use the water, though officials said the water in certain designated areas was safe to drink and wash with as long as people flushed out their systems. They cautioned that the water may still have a slight licorice-type odor to it, raising the anxieties of some who believed it was still contaminated.

"I'm not going to drink it. I'll shower in it and do dishes in it. But I won't drink it. I don't think it's (the chemical) all out," said Angela Stone, who started the 30-minute or so process of flushing her system out soon after the ban was lifted.

By Monday evening, officials had given the green light to about 15 percent of West Virginia American Water's customers, and company spokeswoman Laura Jordan said as much as 25 percent of its customer base could have water by the end of the day.

The water crisis shuttered schools, restaurants and day-care centers and truckloads of water had to be brought in from out of state. People were told to use the



Al Jones of the West Virginia department of General Services tests the water as he flushes the faucet and opens a rest room on the first floor of the State Capitol in Charleston, W.Va., Monday, Jan. 13, 2014.

water only to flush their toilets.

"Finally," said Stone's husband, James Parker. "I can finally take a shower, do dishes

and cook some regular meals."

Officials were lifting the ban in a strict, methodical manner to help ensure the water system was

not overwhelmed by excessive demand, which could cause more water quality and service problems. An online map detailing

2 Mass. children die after getting stuck in chest

FRANKLIN, Mass. (AP)—A 7-year-old boy and his 8-year-old sister died after getting trapped in a hope chest in their home, authorities said Monday.

Family members found the children together inside the chest, which had a lid that could only be opened from the outside. Police responded to the Franklin home at about 8

p.m. Sunday, and the children were taken to hospitals but did not survive.

David Traub, a spokesman for Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey, said multiple family members, including an adult, were in the house at the time. He would not say whether the adult was a parent of the children.

A neighbor whose daughter was friends with the 8-year-old girl identified her as Lexi Munroe and said her 7-year-old brother, Sean Munroe, also died.

Dawn Powers, who lives a few doors down the street from the Munroe family, said the brother and sister were very well-behaved, "the type of kids

you invite into your home."

Traub said the hope chest was "an older type" made by Lane Furniture and was purchased by the family secondhand more than a decade ago.

In 1996, Lane recalled 12 million cedar chests with lids that automatically latch shut after receiving reports of six children suffocating inside.

Asia

Floods hit south Philippines; 20 dead, 13 missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two days of heavy rains set off floods and landslides in the southeastern Philippines, leaving at least 20 people dead, 13 missing and thousands displaced, officials said Monday.

Most of the dead and missing came from floods and landslides that hit Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental provinces, said Maj. Reynaldo Balido, spokesman for the disaster-response agency.

A landslide Monday damaged five houses in Cagdianao municipality in Dinagat Island, off the northeastern coast of the main southern island of Mindanao, killing six residents including two boys aged 2 and 14, said police officer Elbert Ompoc.

Another man drowned in Agusan del Sur province's Prosperidad township, on Min-



In this Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014 photo, rescuers from the Comval Emergency Response Team evacuate residents who were trapped in flooding of Compostela Valley and nearby provinces in southern Philippines.

danao, and seven others were missing, according to the civil defense regional bureau.

The flooding, triggered by rains from a low pressure area, has affected 132,000 people from 10 provinces.

Liza Mazo, a regional disaster-response official, said some 10,000 people fled to safer grounds in four provinces and an island.

The same area was hit by a typhoon in December 2012, leaving nearly 2,000 people dead and missing and causing massive destruction.

Government weather forecaster Gener Quitlong said rains may persist until Tuesday or Wednesday over central provinces, including those hit by Typhoon Haiyan, which killed more than 6,100 people and left nearly 1,800 others missing on Nov. 8.

Imelda Marcos aide gets prison in US art scheme

NEW YORK (AP)—A former aide to ex-Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos was sentenced Monday to two to six years in prison after being convicted of scheming to sell a \$32 million Claude Monet painting overlaid with political intrigue: It's part of a roster of valuables the Philippine government has sought to reclaim from the former first couple.

Prosecutors have said the ex-assistant, Vilma Bautista, greedily peddled ill-gotten treasure. Defense lawyers said she was caught up in a clash between a government and its ousted leader.

Bautista plans to appeal and has "substantial issues" to raise, defense attorneys Susan and Fran Hoffinger said after the sentencing.

Bautista also was ordered to pay about \$3.5 million in state taxes. She was convicted in November of charges including conspiracy and tax fraud.

The case "finally solves the mystery of what happened to four masterpieces of Impressionist art," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said then.

The 1899 Monet, from the French painter's famed "Water Lilies" series, and other art ended up in Bautista's hands after vanishing when a 1986 "people power" revolt sent longtime President Ferdinand Marcos into exile in Hawaii. He died three years later.

During his two decades in power, his wife became known for excess, symbolized by her gargantuan shoe collection.

The Philippines claims the Marcoses acquired billions of dollars' worth of property with the nation's money. The country has spent years seizing companies, bank accounts and other assets believed to be part of that trove.

The Marcoses denied their wealth was ill-gotten, and Imelda Marcos has emerged relatively unscathed from hundreds of legal cases against her and her late husband. She is now a congresswoman in the Philippines.

Bautista was a foreign service officer assigned to the Philippine Mission to the United Nations and later served as Imelda Marcos' New York-based personal secretary.

By 2009, Bautista was mired in debt, and prosecutors said she resorted to trying to sell four paintings the Marcoses had acquired during the presidency. Besides the water lily painting, they included another Monet and works by Alfred Sisley and Albert Marquet.

Bautista ultimately sold the water lily painting—"Le Bassin aux Nymphéas," also known as "Japanese Footbridge Over the Water-Lily Pond at Giverny"—for \$32 million to a Swiss buyer.

Thai protesters block roads in bid to shut capital

By **THANYARAT DOKSONE**
and **TODD PITMAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government protesters who blocked off intersections across Thailand's capital began marching toward several government ministries Tuesday on the second day of a renewed push to derail elections next month and unseat the prime minister.

The protesters had planned to "shut down" the city of 12 million people, but life continued normally in most places, with school classes restarting, commuters heading to work and most businesses remaining open.

Thousands of people—many of them southerners from out of town—slept in the streets in tents or on mats in the open air. Protests leaders pledged the demonstrators will stay camped out in the streets

until an unelected "people's council" replaces Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's administration, which they accuse of corruption and misrule.

"Our goal is to get rid of this government," said Preecha Chamdee, a 46-year-old rubber tapper from eastern Rayong province.

Yingluck dissolved the lower house of Parliament last month and called elections Feb. 2 in a bid to ease tensions. But "an

election is not an answer because they will win again," Preecha said. "We need reforms."

The intensified protests raise the stakes in a long-running crisis that has killed at least eight people in the last two months and fueled fears of more bloodshed to come and a possible army coup.

The real target of the protesters' wrath is Yingluck's brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was toppled

by the army in 2006 and lives in self-imposed exile to avoid jail time for a corruption conviction. They accuse Yingluck of being Thaksin's puppet, but the rural poor like him for the populist policies he implemented, including virtually free health care.

Critics say the protesters are merely trying to grab power because their political allies are unable to win a general election. Candlelight vigils have been held to counter the shutdown and urge the vote be held.

China tourist town burned despite safety system



In this Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014 photo, a burned Buddha sculpture sits on the debris of burnt houses in the ancient town of Dukezong after a fire broke out on last Saturday, in Shangri-la county in southwest China's Yunnan province.

BEIJING (AP)—A fire prevention system costing more than \$1 million wasn't functioning and failed to prevent a blaze that

razed an ancient tourist town in southwest China, the fire service said Monday.

The system in Dukezong had

been shut down to prevent pipes from bursting in the below-freezing temperatures, the Deqen prefecture fire brigade said

on its microblog. The service said the system was installed in 2011 at a cost of 8 million yuan (\$1.3 million).

In addition to the system's failure, the freezing temperatures lowered water pressure in hydrants when the fire broke out at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday. The wooden houses burned quickly, while fire trucks were unable to penetrate narrow streets and alleys.

The official Xinhua News Agency said investigators had determined that the fire started at the local Ruyi Inn when a faulty electrical outlet set a curtain on fire.

Tourism is virtually the only industry in the traditional Tibetan region. The ancient Tibetan quarter of Dukezong dates back more than 1,000 years and is known for its preserved cobbled streets, ancient structures and Tibetan culture.

The fire raged for nearly 10 hours and destroyed 242 structures. About 2,600 people were left homeless, although no casualties were reported. The blaze started in a guesthouse and has been ruled accidental.

Once called Gyaitang Zong, the county surrounding Dukezong renamed itself Shangri-La in 2001, hoping to draw tourists by referencing the mythical Himalayan land described in James Hilton's 1933 novel.

Reached by phone Monday, a 36-year-old businessman who lost his bookshop and convenience store in the fire said the business community would likely rebuild with government help.

World

Militants threaten fragile step to Syrian peace

PARIS (AP)—In a first yet fragile step toward peace, Syria's government and the main but disputed moderate opposition group seeking to oust it have agreed to allow humanitarian aid into some blocked-off parts of the scarred Mideast country.

The agreement was announced by the top envoys for the U.S. and Russia, who together are working the opposite sides to broker progress in any possible way to ease the bloody strife that has engulfed Syria for nearly three years without an end in sight.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov are still pushing for a cease-fire in local pockets around the country and a prisoner exchange, which they said would help set the tone for compromise in the run-up to a peace conference scheduled for next week.

Both men grimly conceded that a final settlement for both sides to build a new government would happen no time soon—if ever.

"But we must begin, and we must begin now," Kerry told reporters in Paris. He said the pro-

cess "will be difficult and will take some time."

Lavrov said, "We're going to do everything in our power to initiate a process.... This is not going to be a one-time event."

The peace process has been beset in recent weeks by chaos within the Western-backed opposition group, known as the Syrian National Coalition, which is one of the only alliances of rebel fighters and political leaders willing to deal with Syrian President Bashar Assad's government. The coalition is in exile, and has lost widespread credibility within its ranks and among rival opposition officials and rebel groups in Syria who have broken away and are fighting for the upper hand against al-Qaida-linked militants.

An estimated 130,000 people have been killed in the war that began in early 2011, and as many as 8 million others have been forced from their homes, Kerry said. The number of refugees stands at about 2 million, he said.

But even the tentative steps forward that were announced Monday carry high risks of being thwarted by militants.

Lavrov noted that rebel insurgents attacked a recent government-sanctioned humanitarian aid convoy to the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk where there were fresh reports of illnesses and deaths among residents from hunger-related ailments this weekend.

A U.N. official last week confirmed at least 15 people have died in Yarmouk in recent weeks, but residents say the real number is close to 50. The U.N.'s Relief and Works Agency that supports Palestinian refugees had until recently shipped food into the area, but has not been able to do so since September as the government tightened its blockade.

The U.N. humanitarian chief said last month that an estimated 250,000 people in besieged communities in Syria were beyond the reach of aid. Both sides have resorted to blockades and the government has kept outside aid sharply limited. Key humanitarian routes are increasingly cut off by the fighting, and kidnappings of aid workers are on the rise.



Members of the Knesset guard carry the coffin of late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the Knesset Plaza in Jerusalem, Monday, Jan. 13, 2014.

Israel's Sharon laid to rest in military funeral

JERUSALEM (AP)—Ariel Sharon was laid to rest Monday at his ranch in southern Israel as the nation bid a final farewell to one of its most colorful and influential leaders—a man venerated by supporters as a warrior and statesman but reviled in the Arab world as a war criminal.

After Israeli politicians and international dignitaries honored Sharon, the military funeral carried a more personal tone, with Sharon's two sons eulogizing their father as an inspiration for the nation. On a day full of warm eulogies, speakers made only passing references to the exploits that made him such a divisive figure.

Sharon died on Saturday, eight years after a devastating stroke removed the prime minister from office and left him in a coma from which he never recovered. He was 85.

His younger son, Gilad, reenacted his final moments: in a hospital room, with music playing, family members chat-

ting and his grandchildren running about.

"And only the hero of the play is lying motionless," he said, pausing. "I hold your hand and stroke your face, the face of my dying father. Beloved father, you have come home."

With hundreds of officials and everyday Israelis on hand, Sharon's other son, Omri, addressed his father a final time.

"Look around, and see the nation gathering around this hilltop. Look and see how they thank you for guarding them. How they appreciate you protecting them and leading them. How they love you and miss you and bow a head. You were worthy of such praise," he said.

One of Israel's greatest and most divisive figures, Sharon rose through the ranks of the military, moving into politics and overcoming scandal and controversy to become prime minister.

He spent most of his life battling Arab enemies and promoting Jewish settlement on war-won lands. But in a

surprising about-face, he led a historic withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005, uprooting all soldiers and settlers from the territory after a 38-year presence in a move he said was necessary to ensure Israel's security.

His backers called him a hero, remembering his daring exploits that helped turn the tide of the 1973 Mideast war in Israel's favor and, after becoming prime minister, his harsh crackdown that helped end a violent Palestinian uprising.

His detractors held him responsible for years of bloodshed. They remember his role in a 1953 commando raid that killed 69 Arabs in the West Bank, and as the mastermind of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon—where he became complicit in a massacre in the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps by an Israeli-allied militia that killed hundreds of Palestinians. Even Israel's withdrawal from Gaza is scorned as a unilateral act that left the beleaguered area doomed for failure.

Swedish doctors transplant wombs into 9 women



In this April 4, 2012 photo made available by the University of Goteborg in Sweden, the Swedish research team practices before the operations to transplant wombs at the Sahlgrenska Hospital in Goteborg, Sweden.

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Nine women in Sweden have successfully received transplanted wombs donated from relatives in an experimental procedure that has raised some ethical concerns. The women will soon try to become pregnant with their new wombs, the doctor in charge of the pioneering project has revealed.

The women were born without a uterus or had it removed because of cervical cancer. Most are in their 30s and are part of the first major experiment to test whether it's possible to transplant wombs into women so they can give birth to their own children.

In many European countries, including Sweden, using a surrogate to carry a pregnancy isn't allowed.

Life-saving transplants of organs such as hearts, livers and kidneys have been done for decades and doctors are increasingly transplanting hands, faces and other body parts to improve patients' quality of life. Womb transplants—the first ones intended to be temporary, just to allow childbearing—push that frontier even farther and raise some new concerns.

There have been two previous attempts to transplant a womb—in Turkey and Saudi Arabia—but both failed to pro-

duce babies. Scientists in Britain, Hungary and elsewhere are also planning similar operations but the efforts in Sweden are the most advanced.

"This is a new kind of surgery," Dr. Mats Brannstrom told The Associated Press in an interview from Goteborg. "We have no textbook to look at."

Brannstrom, chair of the obstetrics and gynecology department at the University of Gothenburg, is leading the initiative. Next month, he and colleagues will run the first-ever workshop on how to perform womb transplants and they plan to publish a scientific report on their efforts soon.

Bodies litter South Sudan oil town; talks resume

BENTIU, South Sudan (AP)—Dozens of dead, mangled and bloated bodies line the roadside from the airport into this state capital of one of South Sudan's oil-producing regions. Houses, buildings and shops have been looted, burned or destroyed, as blackened cars and buses smolder.

The remnants of war in Bentiu show the damage being done across the world's newest country, as the military continues to battle men who served in the same ranks only a month ago but who are now labeled rebels. Bentiu was re-captured by the military over the weekend. Next

up for government troops is the rebel-held town of Bor.

"What you see here is destruction," said Gen. James Hoth Mai, the military's chief of staff. "But the rebels are on the run and we are pursuing them."

Mai immediately turned his thoughts to Bor: "This is a war and we have a large number of soldiers in Bor. We are putting them there for a final assault."

Negotiators for the two sides in South Sudan's nearly month-old conflict met face-to-face in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Monday following shuttle diplomacy between Addis Ababa and Juba, the capital of South Sudan. A Kenyan

mediator, Lazarus Sumbeiywo, said the agenda will include talks on a cessation of hostilities.

In Juba, South Sudan President Salva Kiir cancelled a news conference because "there is a new situation emerging in Addis Ababa," said press secretary Ateny Wek Ateny.

Despite the appearance of diplomatic progress, more violence also looks possible. By boat and truck, South Sudan troops are moving in on Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, just north of Juba. Col. Philip Aguer, South Sudan's military spokesman, would not say when an attack would begin.

Focus

BEIRUT (AP)—Children, the elderly and others displaced by Syria's civil war are starving to death in a besieged camp where women brave sniper fire to forage for food just minutes from the relative prosperity of Damascus.

The dire conditions at the Yarmouk camp are a striking example of the catastrophe unfolding in rebel-held areas blockaded by the Syrian government. U.S. and Russian diplomats said Monday the warring sides are considering opening humanitarian corridors to let in aid and build confidence ahead of an international peace conference on Syria.

Interviews with residents and U.N. officials, as well as photos and videos provided to The Associated Press, reveal an unfolding tragedy in the sprawling camp, where tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees and displaced Syrians are trapped under an intensifying yearlong blockade.

Forty-six people have died since October of starvation, illnesses exacerbated by hunger or because they couldn't obtain medical aid, residents said.

"There are no more people in Yarmouk, only skeletons with yellow skin," said 27-year-old resident Umm Hassan, the mother of two toddlers.

"Children are crying from hunger. The hospital has no medicine. People are just dying," she told the AP by telephone, adding that her 3-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son were rapidly losing weight from lack of food.

The dead include Isra al-Masri, an emaciated toddler who passed away on Saturday swaddled in a woolen sweater, her eyes sunken, her skin darkened, her swollen tongue wedged between her lips. The child was filmed minutes before her death, slowly blinking as she was held by an unidentified woman in a video sent to the AP by a 25-year-old resident, Sami Alhamzawi.

"Look at this child! Look at her!" the woman in the video shouts, thrusting the child before the camera. "What did she do to deserve this?"

Other deaths suggest the extent of desperation among residents: Teenager Mazen al-Asali hung himself in late December after returning home without food to feed his starving mother. An elderly man was beaten to death by thieves who ransacked his home, looking for food and money.

Deaths have also been reported by opposition groups, activists and the United Nations.

Similar casualty figures were



Hunger and death in besieged Damascus area

This undated activist photo provided by the group Palestinians of Syria shows Israa al-Masri, a baby who later died of hunger-related illness on Jan. 11, 2014 in the Palestinian neighborhood of Yarmouk in Damascus, Syria. AP

reported by the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which documents Syrian casualties through a network of activists on the ground. The U.N. confirmed 15 deaths, but spokesman Chris Gunness said it was impossible to know the real toll because of restricted access.

"There is profound civilian suffering in Yarmouk, with widespread malnutrition and the absence of medical care," Gunness said. "Children are suffering from diseases linked to severe malnutrition."

The camp and other blockaded areas pose a stark challenge for Syria's government and the opposition, who agreed to consider opening humanitarian access in the run-up to a peace conference next week in Switzerland that would bring the sides together for the first time.

Speaking in the midst of a two-day series of meetings in Paris, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said they were also pressing for a cease-fire and prisoner exchange between the warring sides.

But hopes appear slim.

The U.N. humanitarian chief said last month that an estimated 250,000 people in be-

sieged communities in Syria were beyond the reach of aid. The government has kept outside aid sharply limited. Key humanitarian routes are increasingly cut off by the fighting, and kidnappings of aid workers are on the rise. Both Assad's forces and rebels have used blockades to punish civilians.

Repeated efforts to bring food into Yarmouk have failed. Most recently, on Monday, six trucks loaded with U.N.-donated food to feed 10,000 people had to turn back after gunmen fired on the convoy, resident Alhamzawi said.

Some 160,000 Palestinians once lived in Yarmouk, a strategic prize for rebels and Assad forces for its close proximity to Damascus. They remained mostly neutral when the uprising began against Assad's rule in March 2011.

But clashes erupted between pro- and anti-Assad Palestinian gunmen in December 2012, and most residents fled. The poorest, some 18,000 people, remained behind, according to U.N. estimates, along with tens of thousands of Syrians displaced from rebel-held areas that were

seized back by the regime.

Pro-Assad Palestinian factions set up checkpoints around Yarmouk and progressively tightened a blockade of the area. By September, they banned residents from leaving, or food from entering.

It also meant residents couldn't reach U.N. aid that was distributed outside the camp. The U.N. stopped operating inside Yarmouk in December,

and hand, she said in a video uploaded by activists.

Lying on a bed, the woman's bloodied hand shook as she wept, recounting how her children pleaded for food. She rushed into the field but heard gunfire and fell to the ground, bleeding and wounded. "For some mallow," she wept. "To save us from death."

The videos appear to be genuine and consistent with AP reporting on Yarmouk.

Within the camp, misery lives amid fear and defiance. Civilians shrink into their homes at dusk, as armed gunmen roam the streets.

Earlier this week, thieves beat up an elderly resident, who later died in a hospital, Alhamzawi told the AP by telephone. They stole his money—and his food. "It's chaos," he said.

Merchants bribe gunmen to sneak in food, but sell it at exorbitant prices. A kilo (2 pounds) of rice costs \$50—about half a month's wage, residents said.

Despite the hardship, parents are still sending their famished children to school, where they are taught by hungry teachers,

Umm Hassan said.

"Officials said we should stop because the children are dizzy and falling down, but we refused," she said.

In recent months, local truces have partly resolved blockades in other rebel-held areas, with gunmen agreeing to disarm in exchange for allowing in food for residents.

The Yarmouk blockade appears to be the harshest yet, and the most intractable. Months of negotiations for rebels to disarm have failed, residents said.

An official of a pro-Assad Palestinian faction imposing the blockade said it wouldn't be lifted until an estimated 3,000 rebels disarmed.

"The regime forces won't remove the siege on the camp as long as the militants are staying in it, and the militants won't leave," said the official, Husam Arafat.

In the meantime, Palestinians in the West Bank have been running a campaign to raise awareness of the siege.

Protesters gathered outside the office of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah, demanding he find a solution.

"History will curse us if you allow Yarmouk's people to die of hunger," one sign read.

History will curse us if you allow Yarmouk's people to die of hunger.

Campus Life

NY school all-in on trend of all-digital textbooks

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—

At Archbishop Stepinac High School, the backpacks got a whole lot lighter this year because nearly every book—from freshman biology to senior calculus—is now digital, accessible on students' laptops and tablets.

"The last couple of years, this would have been like 30 pounds," says sophomore Brandon Cabaleiro, whose load nowadays includes just his iPad, his lunch and a jacket.

But the lost weight and a book bill that dropped from \$600 to \$150 were not the main reasons the all-boys Roman Catholic school north of New York City has gone all-in on the growing trend of digital textbooks.

Except for books on religion, all the texts the school uses are part of a digital bookshelf kept on an Internet cloud.

"We went to digital because it makes for better learning," says Frank Portanova, vice principal at Stepinac. "This is the way kids learn today. And the online content is a lot richer. You've got assessments, you've got virtual labs, you've got blogging."

The online history books, for example, include videos on subjects ranging from Woodrow Wilson to Malcolm X. The sci-



In this Dec. 13, 2013 photo, math teacher Richard Yapchanyk, left, leads a math class at Archbishop Stepinac High School as students use tablets and laptop computers to follow a lesson in an online textbook in White Plains, N.Y.

ence books show scientific processes in motion. The English books grade an essay and offer a student a worksheet on the proper use of commas if it's needed. Students can highlight passages or leave notes to themselves in the margins, without ruining the book for anyone else.

All the books are available to all the students, so a junior can look back at the freshman algebra book to review a concept. Students can click to find every reference to "osmosis," say, in

all the books. The school's technology director, Patricia Murphy, says the textbooks have been updated three times this semester alone.

Lisa Alfasi of New Jersey-based Pearson Education Inc., publisher of the digital library, says Stepinac is the only school in the country, regardless of publisher, that arranged access to all books for all students.

History teacher Joe Cupertino says having so much "enrichment" available in the digital text

means homework is productive and "frees us to do more discussion, more analysis in class."

Portanova says he's already seen academic improvement: The list of students on academic probation "has shrunk substantially, which I really attribute to this digital textbook library."

At Stepinac, where tuition is \$9,000 a year, the boys buy their own tablet or laptop. And the transition from paper to digital has hardly been noticeable for a student body of 700 that has grown up with Google and YouTube.

"It's just natural," says Terrence Tonnock, a freshman.

Freshman Michael Bilotta says he is particularly fond of a feature that allows the digital books to read themselves out loud. "So when you're tired, on the bus or something, you can just put earphones on and hear the lesson."

Ann Flynn, director of education technology for the National School Boards Association, says there's no reliable data on exactly how many schools are going digital, calling it "very much an evolutionary trend now."

She noted that several factors are only encouraging the move: Prices for tablets and laptops are

dropping, more states are agreeing on a Common Core curriculum and online resources such as Khan Academy are becoming available.

Some districts take a more creative approach than using just one publisher's digital product. The Vail district in and around Tucson, Ariz., has pioneered a "Beyond Textbooks" curriculum that relies on materials that the teacher, not a textbook publisher, has either found or developed.

Going digital is not inexpensive. Stepinac had to invest \$1 million in infrastructure, including increased bandwidth. The expense has been a barrier in getting most multischool public districts to make the all-digital leap.

This month, foundations run by Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg and Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates sent \$9 million to a nonprofit working to improve connectivity in schools.

Even with expanded bandwidth, Stepinac had to block social media and gaming sites and has someone monitoring Internet use during the school day to make sure no student is downloading videos for fun or otherwise hogging bandwidth.

"It's all great," said junior Joseph Terrigno. "As long as the Wi-Fi doesn't go down."

Govt offers new approach to classroom discipline

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
AP EDUCATION WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is issuing new recommendations on classroom discipline that seek to end the apparent disparities in how students of different races are punished for violating school rules.

Civil rights advocates have long said that a "school-to-prison" pipeline stems from overly zealous school discipline policies targeting black and Hispanic students that bring them out of school and into the court system.

Attorney General Eric Holder said the problem often stems from well intentioned "zero-tolerance" policies that too often inject the criminal justice system into the resolution of problems. Zero tolerance policies, a tool that became popular in the 1990s, often spell out uniform and swift punishment for offenses such as truancy, smoking or carrying a weapon. Violators can lose classroom time or become saddled with a criminal record.

"Ordinary troublemaking can sometimes provoke responses that are overly severe, including out of school suspensions, expulsions and even referral to law enforcement and then you end up with kids that end up in police precincts instead of the

principal's office," Holder said.

In American schools, black students without disabilities were more than three times as likely as whites to be expelled or suspended, according to government civil rights data collection from 2011-2012. Although black students made up 15 percent of students in the data collection, they made up more than a third of students suspended once, 44 percent of those suspended more than once and more than a third of students expelled.

More than half of students involved in school-related arrests or referred to law enforcement were Hispanic or black, according to the data.

The recommendations being issued Wednesday encourage schools to ensure that all school personnel are trained in classroom management, conflict resolution and approaches to de-escalate classroom disruptions.

Among the other recommendations:

- Ensure that school personnel understand that they are responsible for administering routine student discipline instead of security or police officers.
- Draw clear distinctions

about the responsibilities of school security personnel.

- Provide opportunities for school security officers to develop relationships with students and parents.

The government advises schools to establish procedures on how to distinguish between disciplinary infractions appropriately handled by school officials compared with major threats to school safety. And, it encourages schools to collect and monitor data that security or police officers take to ensure nondiscrimination.

The recommendations are nonbinding, but, in essence, the federal government is telling the school districts around the country that they should adhere to the principles of fairness and equity in student discipline or face strong action if they don't.

Already, in March of last year, the Justice Department spearheaded a settlement with the Meridian, Miss., school district to end discriminatory disciplinary practices. The black students in the district were facing harsher punishment than whites for similar misbehavior.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan acknowledged the challenge is finding the balancing act to keep school safe and orderly, but when it comes to routine discipline the "first instinct should not be to call 911 when there's a problem."

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved,

†Theodora Taman Palacios Camacho

Lovingly known as "Do"

We, the family of the late †Theodora Taman Palacios Camacho would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our beloved "Nang's" passing unto eternal life.

Mass of intention for our beloved will be celebrated daily at Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on the following dates and times.

† Sunday, January 19, 2014
Mass will be offered at 9:00am.

† Monday, 01.20.14 thru
Saturday 01.25.14 Mass will be offered at 6:00am.

† Sunday, January 26, 2014
mass will be at 9:00am.

On the final day Monday, January 27, 2014 Mass will be offered at 6:00am.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank you from the Family



Life & Style

AK-47 designer Kalashnikov wrote penitent letter

MOSCOW (AP)—In a regretful letter penned a few months before his death, Mikhail Kalashnikov, the designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, asked the head of the Russian Orthodox Church if he was to blame for the deaths of those killed by his weapon.

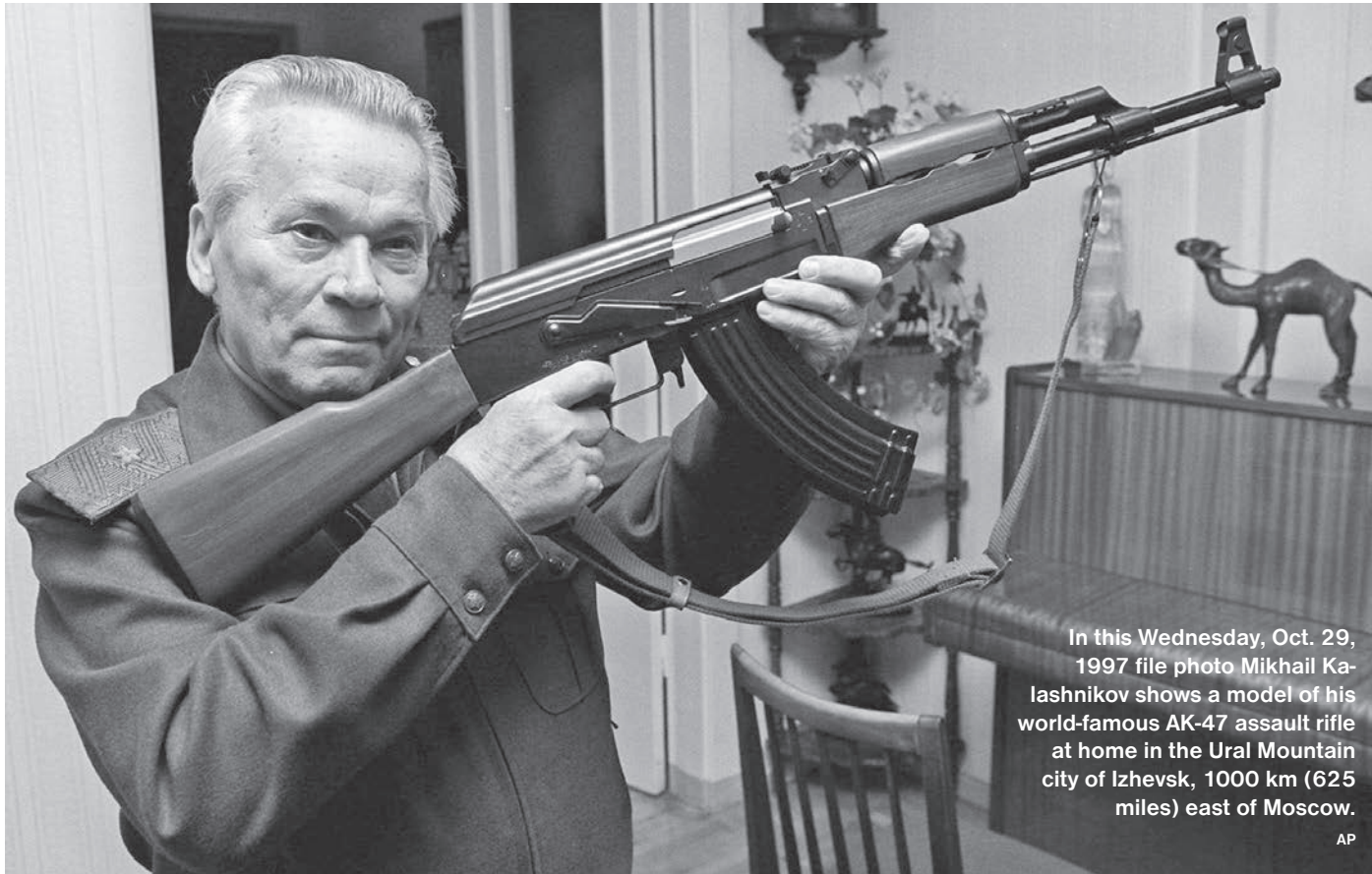
The Russian daily Izvestia on Monday published the letter, in which Kalashnikov, who died last month at 94, told Patriarch Kirill that he kept asking himself if he was responsible. The AK-47 is the world's most popular firearm, with an estimated 100 million spread around the world.

"The pain in my soul is unbearable. I keep asking myself the same unsolvable question: If my assault rifle took people's lives, it means that I, Mikhail Kalashnikov, ... son of a farmer and Orthodox Christian am responsible for people's deaths," he said in the letter.

Kalashnikov also shared his bitter thoughts about humankind.

"The longer I live, the more often that question gets into my brain, the deeper I go in my thoughts and guesses about why the Almighty allowed humans to have devilish desires of envy, greed and aggression," Kalashnikov continued. "Everything changes, only a man and his thinking remain unchanged: he's just as greedy, evil, heartless and restless as before!"

Kalashnikov's daughter, Elena, was quoted by Izvestia as saying that a local priest could



In this Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1997 file photo Mikhail Kalashnikov shows a model of his world-famous AK-47 assault rifle at home in the Ural Mountain city of Izhevsk, 1000 km (625 miles) east of Moscow. AP

have helped her father write the two-page letter, which was typed and carried his signature.

The rifle's simplicity and reliability made it a weapon of choice for the Third World insurgents backed by the Soviet Union. Moscow not only distributed the AK-47 widely but also licensed its production in some 30 other countries. The gun's cult status among revolutionaries and national-liberation

fighters is enshrined on the flag of Mozambique.

The letter, which was sent in April, contrasted sharply with past statements by Kalashnikov, who had repeatedly said in interviews and public speeches that he created the weapon to protect his country and couldn't be blamed for other people's action.

"I sleep well. It's the politicians who are to blame for failing to come to an agreement

and resorting to violence," the designer told The Associated Press in 2007.

The church sought to comfort him with exactly same argument. Izvestia quoted Kirill's spokesman Alexander Volkov as saying the Patriarch responded to Kalashnikov and praised him as a true patriot.

"If the weapon is used to defend the Motherland, the Church supports both its cre-

ators and the servicemen using it," the newspaper quoted Volkov as saying.

In 2007, President Vladimir Putin praised Kalashnikov's weapon as a "symbol of the creative genius of our people." Putin attended Kalashnikov's burial at a memorial military cemetery just outside Moscow.

While it's not especially accurate, Kalashnikov's rifle can perform in sandy or wet condi-

tions that jam more sophisticated weapons such as the U.S. M-16.

"During the Vietnam war, American soldiers would throw away their M-16s to grab AK-47s and bullets for it from dead Vietnamese soldiers," Kalashnikov said at a 2007 ceremony marking the rifle's 60th anniversary.

Kalashnikov, born into a peasant family in Siberia, first showed his designer skills when he invented some modifications for Soviet tanks while serving as a Red Army conscript. He was badly wounded in a 1941 battle with the Nazis and first started designing of a new automatic rifle while he was recovering in the hospital.

Kalashnikov received numerous honors, including the Hero of Socialist Labor and Order of Lenin and Stalin Prize, but never got rich because his invention was never patented.

Kalashnikov continued working into his late 80s as chief designer of the Iz mash company that first built the AK-47. He started travelling the world in the waning days of the Soviet Union, serving as a living symbol of Russian prowess in making weapons and helping negotiate new arms deals.

In his letter to the Patriarch, Kalashnikov said that at 91 he began visiting a church in the city of Izhevsk where he worked and died, adding words of praise for the Russian Orthodox Church.

'24' returns in May with 12-episode run on Fox

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jack Bauer is back, and he's on the run in London.

Kiefer Sutherland returns as the intrepid counter-terrorist in a 12-episode run of "24: Live Another Day," debuting with a two-hour show May 5 on Fox. It will take up its regular one-hour slot starting May 12.

"I'm about as anxious and wound up as I've been in a long time," Sutherland said Monday at the Television Critics Association winter meeting.

He returns to a character he played for eight seasons, from 2001 to 2010. "There's a great impetus for all of us to create something new with the show," Sutherland said.

The show will be set and shot in London and retain the real-time format with split screens and interwoven story lines. It picks up four years after the events of "24's" final season, with Bauer now a fugitive being hunted by the CIA.

"Things will be blowing up—cars, double decker buses, things like that," said Sutherland, who was born in

London. "I'm sure we'll be hated by a large portion of London for snarling up their traffic here and there, and for that I apologize in advance."

Also back from the original series are Mary Lynn Rajskub, Kim Raver and William Devane. Several newcomers have joined the cast, including Oscar nominee Judy Davis and Yvonne Strahovski of "Dexter."

Rajskub, who plays Chloe, said she closely followed Internet speculation about the series return and waited eagerly to find out whether she'd be included.

"I have a lot of people who refuse to call me anyone but Chloe," she said. "I never thought '24' would come back and in this format."

A potential "24" movie has been bandied about, too.

"If this ends up rebooting the show or causing a film to be made, so be it," Sutherland said, adding any script for a movie version would be "very, very different."

"The film is sort of an ongoing situation," he said.

'Octomom' charged with welfare fraud in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Octomom" Nadya Suleman did porn films, boxed D-list celebrities, even endorsed birth control for dogs after giving birth in 2009 to eight babies after she received in vitro fertility treatments.

Through it all, she never ran afoul of the law. At least until now.

On Monday, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office announced Suleman has been charged with three counts of welfare fraud.

Authorities say the 38-year-old single mother of 14 children failed to report \$30,000 she earned while collecting public assistance money.

Suleman, who was charged Jan. 6, was not immediately taken into custody but was ordered to appear in court on Friday. Prosecutors planned to ask that bail be set at \$25,000.

If convicted, she could be sentenced to nearly six years in prison.

"While applying for public aid, the mother of 14 children allegedly failed to disclose that she was also getting checks for personal appearances and residuals from videos," the district attor-



In this May 19, 2010 this file photo, Nadya Suleman stands outside her home in La Habra, Calif. AP

ney's office said in a statement.

Authorities didn't say what the personal appearances or videos involved, but it's no secret Suleman has made at least one porn video, posed topless for various publications, danced in a Florida strip club and taken part in so-called celebrity boxing matches as she's struggled to support her children.

One of her boxing opponents was Amy Fischer, the former "Long Island Lolita" who was 17 when she shot her much older lover's wife in the face in 1992.

Suleman, whose real name is

Natalie Denise Suleman, could not be located for comment Monday. There was no phone listing for the Orange County home where she has recently been living.

Lawyers, publicists and others who have worked with her over the years either did not respond to requests for comment or simply refused to talk about her.

All of Suleman's children have been born by in vitro fertility treatments. She's never named a father of any of the babies.

She's also been careful about shielding them from media at-

tention, but occasional video and print articles seem to indicate they are growing up healthy, even though the octuplets were born nine weeks premature.

Her older children range in age from 7 to 12.

After the octuplets were born on Jan. 26, 2009, it was discovered that her physician, Dr. Michael Kamrava, had implanted 12 embryos in her womb.

The medical community reacted with outrage, saying he grossly violated professional standards, and the state Medical Board revoked his license.

Initial offers to help quickly dried up as outrage spread about the births and knowledge that Suleman was unemployed and had been collecting welfare before the children were born.

In 2010 she defaulted on a house she had bought with a \$115,000 down payment and it was sold at auction. She moved to a rental house in the Los Angeles suburb of Palmdale but left last year, soon after checking into a rehabilitation center.

At one point child welfare officials investigated allegations that she wasn't properly caring for the children. No charges were ever brought.

What's on YouTube? 'YouTube Nation' lets you know

NEW YORK (AP)—How do you cope with an exploding world of YouTube vid-

eo? Starting Tuesday, you can get help by visiting "YouTube Nation."

The video-sharing website has teamed with DreamWorks

Animation to create this daily highlight reel of brand-new, trending and yet-to-be-discovered content.

It will serve as a handy sam-

pler, says DreamWorks Animation CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg. "In a sea of the infinite, this is a lighthouse."

Every minute, some 100 hours of new video content is uploaded to YouTube. Now a task force of "YouTube Nation" curators will be plowing through this cache to identify not only what's most popular, but also what's poised to go viral with YouTube consumers.

"Our choices aren't driven purely by algorithms and analytics," says Katzenberg. "You don't want to just know what's the most seen. What you really want to know is: What's GOING to be the most seen?"

The five-minute "YouTube Nation" program will post weekdays at 9 p.m. Eastern Time/6 p.m. Pacific Time starting Tuesday. It's hosted by Jacob Soboroff (from HuffPost Live, the streaming network of The Huffington Post, and Pivot TV's "TakePart Live").

But each episode will be more than a digital tip sheet. It will come equipped with links and playlists that enable the user to delve fully into the video being recommended.

"For every five minutes of our show," says Katzenberg, "we'll have an hour or more of content."

"YouTube Nation" is geared chiefly to 18-to-30-year-olds and "casual viewers who would like to be heavier users," he says.

But Robert Kyncl, YouTube's head of content and business operations, says, "We look at 'YouTube Nation' as a way to promote the great breadth of content on YouTube in an easily digestible way for anyone—and that's the key word, 'anyone.'"

The advertiser-supported "YouTube Nation" is the first daily series produced by DreamWorks Animation and marks the first use of the YouTube brand

for a daily series. The project, an equal partnership of the two companies, has been in the works for a year, with a current staff totaling 50.

But that's just the beginning, says Katzenberg. Within two months, a second daily edition of the show will be added to the mix, posting at 12 noon Eastern/9 a.m. Pacific.

Then, mid-year, specialization will be introduced with a dozen or so "vertical" guides such as "YTN Sports," "YTN News" and "YTN Music"—more than a dozen in all, says Katzenberg.

The mission is to bring to a waiting audience video that otherwise might never be found, discovered and presented by YouTube insiders.

"We'll answer the question, 'Can you tell me what's the most interesting, cool stuff?'" says Katzenberg. "I don't want to have to learn about it on 'Good Morning America.'"



This undated image released by YouTube Nation shows host Jacob Soboroff on the set of "YouTube Nation."

Stars of 'The Following' admit to nightmares

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Anyone who gets nightmares from Fox's creepy thriller "The Following" isn't alone. The two stars say it happens to them, too.

Kevin Bacon and James Purefoy both said Monday they take work home with them sometimes. Bacon plays former FBI agent Ryan Hardy, who's on the trail of a sadistic serial killer played by Purefoy in the series, which attracted attention for violence in its debut season but also had strong ratings. "The Following" returns for its second season on Sunday.



Bacon

"He's so profoundly dark," Purefoy said of his character, Joe Carroll. "Anybody who celebrates death and finds great beauty in it, absolutely, there are some fretful nights."

Jessica Stroup, who plays a police officer, said there was something so disturbing that happens to her character this season that it was hard to shake.

She can sleep soundly, but she's looking at her surroundings more carefully while awake, she said.

Series creator Kevin Williamson, the man behind the "Scream" movies, said he finds the second season less

violent than the first, at least by his standards. The first episode contains a violent incident on a subway by a character in a creepy mask.

"I don't want it to be gore for the sake of gore," Williamson said. "It is to push the story forward and to make you gasp, to scare you."

"I don't really see it as gory," he said. "I guess it's subjective. I like a little violence."

The veteran Bacon, who's had so many roles in his career that it inspired its own parlor game, said there's something special about this one.

"The connection I feel to the fans of this show is probably deeper than anything that I've experienced in my career," he said.

Judge rejects bid for new Michael Jackson trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Monday rejected a bid by Michael Jackson's mother for a new trial in her lawsuit claiming the promoter of her son's ill-fated comeback concerts was negligent in his death.

Superior Court Judge Yvette Palazuelos ruled that jurors were given proper instructions and there were no errors in her trial rulings that would warrant a retrial.

A jury determined in October that AEG Live was not liable for Jackson's June 2009 death despite hiring the doctor who was convicted of giving the superstar an overdose of a powerful anesthetic.

Katherine Jackson's lawyers argued that jurors were given an improper verdict form that was contrary to state law and didn't allow them to consider all the issues in the case after five months of testimony last year.

AEG's lawyers argued that there was no mistake in the verdict form and the motion for a new trial should be denied.

Attorneys for the Jackson family matriarch say they will appeal to a higher state court.

Jurors decided the case on a question about whether evidence showed former cardiologist Conrad Murray was unfit or incompetent to serve as Jackson's physician while he prepared for a

series of 50 concerts at London's O2 Arena. Katherine Jackson's attorneys argued the question unfairly restricted deliberations, but Palazuelos disagreed.

"Question Two does not restrict jurors to the consideration of Dr. Murray's competence at the time of hiring only," the judge wrote.

She also determined that there was no evidence that the panel was confused by the verdict form, noting that jurors often wrote her notes about scheduling concerns and to ask for supplies during deliberations.

"The court finds no jury confusion based on the admissible evidence," Palazuelos ruled.

'Romeo and Juliet' with Bloom becomes a V-Day film

NEW YORK (AP)—This Valentine's Day, why not offer your loved one a timeless Broadway romance—without ever leaving your neighborhood?

Content provider Screenvision and the new company BroadwayHD teamed up to record the recent Orlando Bloom-led production of "Romeo and Juliet" and broadcast it to movie theaters across the country.

Before it closed in December, high definition cameras recorded the show on Nov. 27 at the Richard Rodgers Theatre under the direction of Emmy Award-winning Don Roy King. That recording—the first time in over 36 years "Romeo and Juliet" had been on Broadway—will be available in more than 2,000 movie theaters in all 50 states from Feb. 13-19.

"It's so great to capture it because who knows when it will be on Broadway again," said Darryl Schaffer, an executive vice president at Screenvision. "It's just such a great production. We're excited to bring it to movie theaters."

Bloom made his Broadway debut as Romeo in director David Leveaux's revival of Shakespeare's classic tragedy opposite Condola Rashad, who has back-to-back Tony Award nominations for "Stick Fly" and "The Trip to Bountiful."

Screenvision, which began broadcasting stage works in 2008, recommends individual ticket prices at \$20, though each exhibitor can set its own price. The average ticket price on Broadway was \$78, with a top premium ticket fetching \$223.

The move is just the latest to seize on technological improvements and a willingness to let live shows be recorded, following in the pioneering digital footsteps of The Metropolitan



This theater image released by The Hartman Group shows Orlando Bloom, left, and Condola Rashad during a performance of "Romeo and Juliet," in New York.

Opera and London National Theatre's NT Live series.

Producers see such broadcasts as a win-win for everyone. Movie theaters get content for off-peak times, theatrical producers can see a new life for their work, and audiences who never got to see Broadway offerings can now catch shows for a fraction of the price.

"The timing is right. There are enough platforms out there. Technology has advanced. Now we're getting cooperation from unions and the industry as a whole. So I think now is the moment," said producer Stewart F. Lane, who co-founded BroadwayHD with fellow theater producer Bonnie Comley. Together, they've produced such shows as "War Horse," "Jekyll & Hyde" and "Priscilla Queen of the Desert."

"New York's got the greatest pool of talent in the world and not everybody gets to see that," said Lane. "I am a theater person at heart and this I'm hoping will help bring theater into the 21st century."

Nine cameras situated in

front-row seats or tucked around the stage captured an up-close "Romeo and Juliet" over two performances in front of audiences. "It gives it a certain intimacy and urgency," Lane said. "What we've done here is create a whole new art form."

The show features Bloom roaring onto the stage on a Triumph motorcycle, has a set with huge pipes that spit fire and costumes that include knit caps, slip dresses and gray zip-up jackets. Reviews were poor and the show struggled at the box office.

Both Schaffer and Lane see recorded versions of Broadway and West End shows as an increasingly mainstream phenomenon, particularly if big stars continue to show up for limited runs. Plus, there likely will still be lives for the shows after the movie theater—Netflix or on-demand are options.

While "Romeo and Juliet" doesn't end that happily for its star-crossed lovers, Schaffer thinks it's a perfect fit for Valentine's Day. "It is one of the greatest love stories ever written," she said.

Producers: 'American Idol' making changes

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The producers of "American Idol" say the show's new season includes changes to freshen it, including expanded song choices for contestants.

Executive producer Per Blankens said Monday that after tending toward a fair amount of golden oldies, the show's song list will add more current tunes that the young contestants can relate to.

Executive producer Trish Kinane says former judge Randy Jackson's new role will include leading a workshop that helps contestants deal with vocal and other challenges.

The talent contest also will introduce a "rush week" that precedes the Hollywood week auditions.

But Kinane told the Television Critics Association the series is still essentially "American Idol."

Fox's program enters its 13th season Wednesday with declining ratings and competition in the talent genre from NBC's "The Voice."



Judges, from left, Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez, and Harry Connick Jr. are seen during the panel of "American Idol" at the FOX Winter 2014 TCA, on Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena, Calif.

Golden Globes viewership highest in a decade

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nielsen ratings company says the Golden Globes awards ceremony hit a 10-year high in viewership.

According to national figures released Monday, the NBC telecast, with Tina Fey and Amy Poehler co-hosting for a second year, was seen Sunday by 20.9 million viewers. That's an audience growth of 1.2 million viewers (or 6 percent) over last year's show.

NBC said the telecast is currently the season's most-watched awards program, topping the CMA Awards, Emmy Awards, American Music Awards and People's Choice Awards.

Fey and Poehler are set to return to the Globes in 2015.

For the fifth year, the Globes were televised live to all time zones, and some Western markets also carried an encore telecast following the live coverage, which began at 5 p.m. Pacific time.

This image released by NBC shows hosts Tina Fey, left, and Amy Poehler during the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP



Outkast announces more than 40 festival dates

NEW YORK (AP)—Outkast's 20th anniversary comeback is being extended to more than 40 festival dates in 2014.

The Grammy-winning rap duo announced across its newly launched social media platforms Monday that it will play the dates, but not where. Andre "Andre 3000" Benjamin and Antwan "Big Boi" Patton announced last week they were coming off hiatus and performing together for the first time in 10 years at the Coachella Valley Arts & Music Festival in April.

Benjamin and Patton never formally broke up but stopped working together after the release of the 2006 soundtrack, "Idlewild," at the height of their popularity. Patton has released a couple of solo albums in the interim, and Benjamin has been acting and making occasional musical guest appearances.

Prince to appear on 'New Girl' after Super Bowl

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Fox's post-Super Bowl party will include Prince making a guest appearance on the comedy "New Girl."

In an episode of the show that will air directly after the big game next month, Zooey Deschanel's character is invited to a mansion party hosted by Prince—a party her friends are

determined to crash.

Fox will also air an episode of "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" that night after "New Girl," with the show fresh off its Golden Globe award for best comedy.

The Super Bowl is traditionally the most-watched TV event of the year, so the time slots after it are considered prime real estate.

Angry dad wants to learn how to control his emotions

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a dad in my 30s and I have a problem. I have been battling anger issues since I was a kid. I have been finding myself getting more and more worked up with my kids. When they misbehave, I lose it and yell at them. It is the way I was raised; however, I feel even worse afterward.

I really want to break this habit. I don't want the only memories my children have of me to be images of my red face and bugged-out eyes hollering at them. Do you have any guidelines I can follow to get a better handle on my anger?

LOUD DAD IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR LOUD DAD: Yes, I do. And I'm glad you asked me because it's important that you find other ways of relieving your frustration than taking it out on your children. It is not only counterproductive, it is extremely destructive.

When a bigger person yells at a smaller person, the message is often lost because the smaller person (in your case, your children) simply shuts down out of fear that physical violence might follow.

You should not ignore your feelings when your children act up. Rather, you need to find another manner for expressing your emotions. My booklet "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It" offers suggestions on redirecting angry feelings in a healthy way. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby -- Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Dealing with anger calmly and with reason is more effective than lashing out. Expressing your feelings is healthy when it's done with a few well-chosen words that make your point. As you have already learned, exploding in anger serves no constructive purpose and only makes you feel worse afterward.

Sometimes when people are angry or frustrated about other things, they can lose control of their temper. In situations like these, it is important to evaluate the source of what might really be irritating you before misdirecting your anger at someone who is blameless.

There are healthy ways of dealing with anger and frustration. Developing the control to express emotions verbally without being abusive or calling names is one of them. Another is to say a prayer ("Please Lord, don't let me lose my temper!") before opening your mouth. Leaving the room, going for a walk or short run can be helpful.

Unhealthy ways that should be avoided include getting into your car when you are angry, or using alcohol or drugs to calm you.

My booklet offers many other suggestions for dealing with anger and frustration, and I hope it will be helpful to you. However, if it isn't, then you should discuss your problem with a mental health professional. It's important to get a handle on your feelings so your children won't grow up thinking that verbal abuse is a normal way to handle their emotions.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Armond White expelled from NY Film Critics Circle

NEW YORK (AP) — Film critic Armond White has been expelled from the New York Film Critics Circle after allegedly heckling "12 Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen at the group's annual awards banquet. The critics convened Monday and voted the CityArts critic out of the group. Entertainment Weekly's Owen Gleiberman, a member of the group, confirmed in an online post White's expelling. White reportedly yelled expletives at McQueen when he accepted the award for best director at last week's New York Film Critics Awards. He was quoted as loudly calling McQueen an "embarrassing doorman and garbage man." White disputed that account and in an email to the Associated Press last week, calling the charges a "barrage of lies." Known for his contrarian reviews, White lambasted "12 Years a Slave" as "torture porn."

Maria Shriver to meet with Obama on Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says Maria Shriver on Tuesday will present President Barack Obama with a copy of her report on the economic status of women in the U.S. Shriver is a niece of President John F. Kennedy. She also is the wife of former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The report, "A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink," tells the story of the financial insecurity of America's families through the eyes of women. It finds that one-third of women are living near the brink of poverty despite making up half the U.S. workforce and two-thirds of the primary or co-breadwinners in their families. Obama has been pressing opposition Republicans to agree to extend unemployment insurance as he prepares to highlight income inequality in his State of the Union address on Jan. 28.

Fox plans changes for US version of 'Broadchurch'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Fox's entertainment chairman says a remake of the British police drama "Broadchurch" for U.S. viewers will be faithful to the original, to a point. Network executive Kevin Reilly said Monday that the Fox series, titled "Gracepoint," will be 10 episodes instead of the eight for "Broadchurch." It also will feature a different lead actress and a twist in the ending. "Gracepoint" goes into production within a few weeks. It will star the British show's male lead, David Tennant, as a troubled police detective. But Olivia Coleman, who played a dowdy small-town detective and family woman, won't be opposite him again. Instead, Anna Gunn of "Breaking Bad" was cast in the Fox remake that Reilly says will feature U.S. actors, aside from Tennant.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



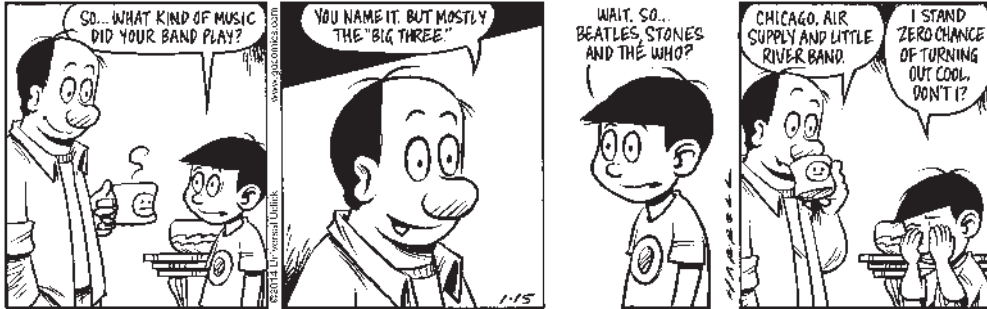
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



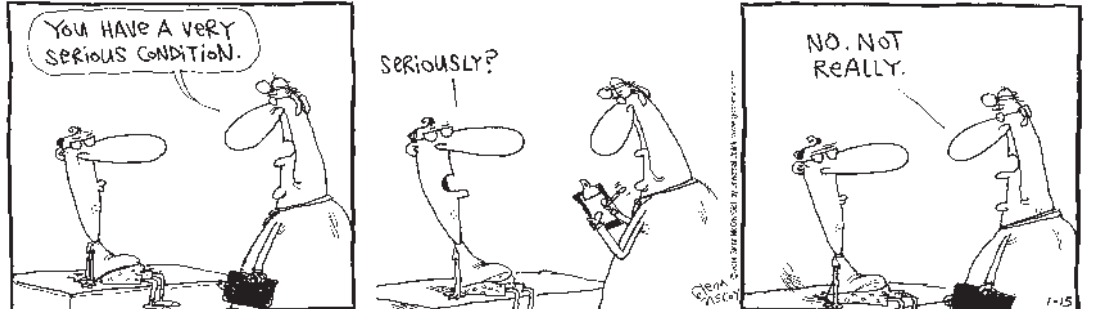
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

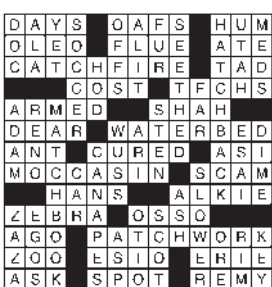


CROSSWORD

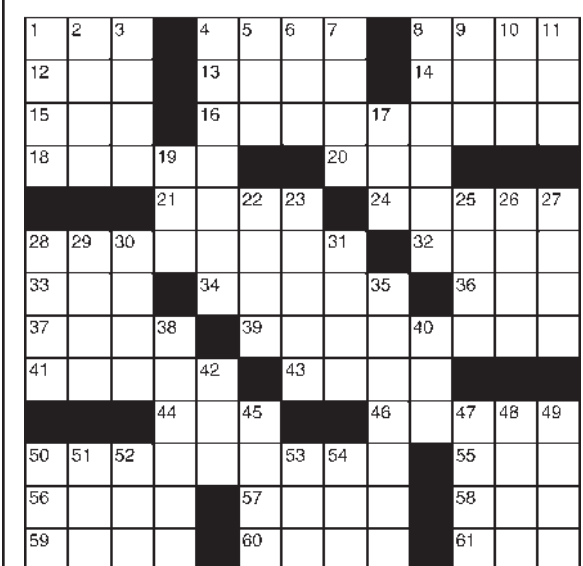
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Its HQ is the Pentagon
- 4 Nitwit
- 8 Jeans maker Strauss
- 12 Inseparable
- 13 On the rocks
- 14 Rainbow
- 15 Workout venue
- 16 Ruse
- 18 Be
- 20 Unruly bunch
- 21 Small veggies
- 24 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
- 28 Unknown person
- 32 Relaxation
- 33 "Eureka!"
- 34 Car sticker
- 36 Sermon subject
- 37 Carte
- 39 Re summer theater
- DOWN**
- 41 Keeping tabs on
- 43 Big rig
- 44 Vast expanse
- 46 "Carmen" composer
- 50 — upon-
- 55 Before
- 56 Horse-shoe site
- 57 Met melody
- 58 Half dozen
- 59 Duel tool
- 60 Cincinnati team
- 61 Stick with a kick
- 2 Quartz variety
- 3 Ms. of the seven
- 4 Bloat
- 5 Nov. preceder
- 6 Apiece
- 7 Dutch cheese
- 8 Apt except
- 9 Work you and I
- 10 Compete
- 11 Doctrine
- 17 Pirouette pivot
- 19 Mas-seur's work-place
- 22 Census statistics
- 23 Denominations
- 25 Long cut
- 26 Largest of the seven
- 27 Land-lord's due
- 28 Un-
- 29 Changed
- 30 Hindu royal
- 31 Exceptional
- 35 Greek cons-nants
- 38 Risky
- 40 Nintendo console
- 42 Obtain
- 45 Distant
- 47 Piquancy
- 48 Ms. Brockovich
- 49 Libretto
- 50 That girl
- 51 Upper surface
- 52 Shad product
- 53 Galena, e.g.
- 54 Disen-cumber

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-15



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Brees, 35; Regina King, 43; Chad Lowe, 46; Mario Van Peebles, 57.

Happy Birthday: Ask questions, look at your options and make choices based on facts and reality. You can make things happen with regard to your health, happiness and financial wellness if you set your goals, research your options and head in a straight line from point "A" to point "B." Your determination will help you close whatever deal you pursue. Your numbers are 4, 9, 17, 25, 33, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Past problems will creep up on you if you allow your emotions to take you back to incidents that are best left alone. Positive forward motion is required to redirect negative energy. Charge ahead with confidence, willpower and determination. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Trust may be an issue, and revealing your secrets and intentions can lead to interference. Take care of responsibilities that you are handed quickly and efficiently, and move on to the things you would prefer to spend your time doing. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't just question what you are doing; initiate change based on the information you discover. Getting involved in a joint venture can be your ticket to a better life; however, make sure that you get whatever you are promised in writing. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share with the people you feel you have something in common with. You may be considered

a little trendy or ahead of your time, but if you mute your ideas initially, you will draw interest in what you are trying to accomplish. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Listen carefully. Don't respond to or get into a spat over something that can cause either professional or personal problems. Keep your thoughts a secret and act quietly to accomplish your goals with as little meddling as possible. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Voice your opinions. You will get a standing ovation and interest from someone who may want to use you in more diverse ways. Spring into action, but be wary of anyone wanting you to contribute funds as well as suggestions. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Hard work is required if you intend to reach your goals. Listen to advice given and compromise enough to get things done. Use your intelligence to motivate and inspire others to see things your way. Keep your emotions under control. ★★

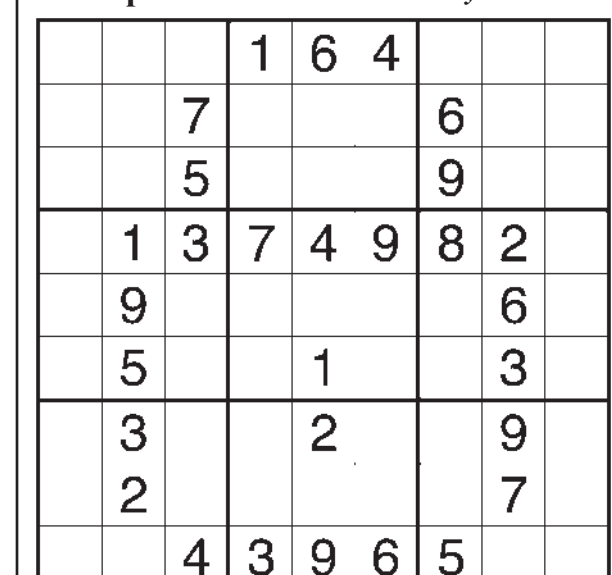
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Past partners will be valuable to you now. Reach out and share ideas and you will discover a way to make the most of an idea you have. Listen carefully and respond responsibly and you will regain the confidence and respect you deserve. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't spend your own money. Watch what everyone else is doing and base your decisions on facts and figures. Don't leave anything to chance. Take care of all transactions yourself. The changes you make must be within your means. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



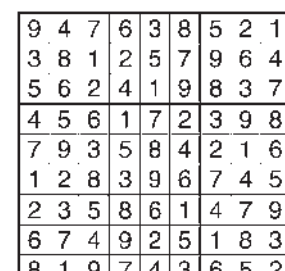
Difficulty Level ★★

1/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

1/15

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships will be an issue. Don't allow your emotions to get involved in serious decisions. Change your mind if you don't feel comfortable with what's happening around you. Protect your health, wealth and happiness, and trust in your abilities over others. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't repeat past mistakes. Look at the situation you face and make adjustments that will counter whatever is coming down the pipeline. Your intelligence, integrity and ability to act fast will help you avoid a situation that can affect your livelihood. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Reach out and make a difference to others. Your kindness will lead to offerings and proposals that can turn a little gesture into a huge opportunity. Don't shy away from participating. Your contribution will improve your life. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are capable and intent on making a difference. You are a doer.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'GRAVITY' (FILL)

Solution: 10 letters



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Bullock, Cabin, Capsule, Captain, Climb, Clooney, Crew, Damage, Destruction, Drama, Earth, Expedition, Explore, Fear, Film, Fire, Floating, George, Harris, Jetpack, Movie, Ocean, Oxygen, Panic, Planet, Radio, Repair, Rocket, Sandra, Science, Sharma, Soyuz, Spacewalk, Stone, Strike, Suit, Tiangong, Warning, Warren, Water, Wires, Wreckage

Yesterday's Answer: Baby Bumps

Tuesday 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased by calling toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universalclick.com. (Contains 130 puzzles.)

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A-Rod sues MLB, union to overturn drug ban



NEW YORK
(AP)—Alex Rodriguez

sued Major League Baseball and its players' union Monday, seeking to overturn a season-long suspension imposed by an arbitrator who ruled there was "clear and convincing evidence" the New York Yankees star used three banned substances and twice tried to obstruct the sport's drug investigation.

As part of the complaint filed in federal court in Manhattan, Rodriguez's lawyers made public Saturday's 34-page decision by arbitrator Fredric Horowitz, who shortened a penalty originally set at 211 games last August by baseball Commissioner Bud Selig for violations of the sport's drug agreement and labor contract.

Horowitz, a 65-year-old making his second decision as baseball's independent arbitrator, trimmed the discipline to 162 games, plus all postseason games in 2014.

"While this length of suspension may be unprecedented for a MLB player, so is the misconduct he committed," Horowitz wrote.

Horowitz concluded Rodriguez used testosterone, human growth hormone and Insulin-like growth factor-1 in 2010, 2011 and 2012 in violation of baseball's Joint Drug Agreement. He relied on evidence provided by the founder of the now-closed Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic in Florida.

"Direct evidence of those violations was supplied by the testimony of Anthony Bosch and corroborated with excerpts from Bosch's personal composition notebooks, BBMs (Blackberry messages) exchanged between Bosch and Rodriguez, and reasonable inferences drawn from the entire record of evidence," Horowitz wrote. "The testimony was direct, credible and squarely corroborated by excerpts from several of the hundreds of pages of his composition notebooks."

While the original notebooks were stolen, Horowitz allowed copies into evidence.

Rodriguez's suit accused the Major League Baseball Players Association of "bad faith," said its representation during the hearing was "perfunctory at best" and accused it of failing to attack a civil suit filed by MLB



This Oct. 1, 2013 file photo shows New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez arriving at the offices of Major League Baseball in New York. Rodriguez sued Major League Baseball and its players' union Monday, Jan. 13, 2014 seeking to overturn a season-long suspension imposed by an arbitrator who ruled there was "clear and convincing evidence" he used three banned substances and twice tried to obstruct the sport's drug investigation. AP

in Florida state court as part of its Biogenesis investigation.

His lawyers criticized Michael Weiner, the union head who died from a brain tumor in November, for saying last summer he recommended Rodriguez settle for a lesser penalty if MLB were to offer an acceptable length.

"His claim is completely without merit, and we will aggressively defend ourselves and our members from these baseless charges," new union head Tony Clark said in a statement. "The players' association has vigorously defended Mr. Rodriguez's rights throughout the Biogenesis investigation, and indeed throughout his career. Mr. Rodriguez's allegation that the association has failed to fairly represent him is outrageous, and his gratuitous attacks on our former executive director, Michael Weiner, are inexcusable."

The suit also claimed MLB engaged in "ethically challenged behavior" and was the source of media leaks in violation of baseball's confidentiality rules.

Rodriguez's lawyers said Horowitz acted "with evident partiality" and "refused to entertain evidence that was perti-

nent and material." They faulted Horowitz for denying Rodriguez's request to have a different arbitrator hear the case, for not ordering Selig to testify and for allowing Bosch to claim Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination in refusing to answer questions during cross-examination.

They also said Horowitz let the league introduce "unauthenticated documents and hearsay evidence ... obtained by theft, coercion or payment," wouldn't allow them to examine Blackberry devices introduced by MLB and was fearful he would be fired if he didn't side with management.

Rodriguez asked the court to throw out Horowitz's decision and find the league violated its agreements with the union and that the union breached its duty to represent him. The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos.

Supreme Court decisions have set narrow grounds for judges to vacate arbitration decisions, instances such as corruption or not following the rules agreed to by the parties.

The three-time AL MVP admitted five years ago he used

performance-enhancing substances while with Texas from 2001-03, but the third baseman has denied using them since. MLB's Biogenesis investigation was sparked after the publication of documents last January by Miami New Times.

Bosch agreed in June to cooperate with MLB and testified during the hearing, which ran from September until November. Rodriguez's lawyers attacked his credibility because of that deal, which included reimbursement by MLB for costs of lawyers, up to \$2,400 daily for security, insulation from civil suits and a promise to tell law enforcement he was cooperative.

"The benefits accorded to Bosch under that arrangement did not involve inducements that the panel considers to be improper," wrote Horowitz, who chaired a three-man panel that included MLB Chief Operating Officer Rob Manfred and union General Counsel David Prouty.

Horowitz cited the credibility of Bosch's "unrebutted testimony—testimony which was corroborated by substantial documentary evidence," and he described how Bosch and Rodriguez communicated in code,

referring to banned substances as "food."

"Once when Bosch sent a message telling Rodriguez that he was going to pick up Rodriguez's 'meds,' Rodriguez replied 'Not meds dude. Food,'" the arbitrator wrote.

Rodriguez did not testify in the grievance, walking out after Horowitz refused to order Selig to testify.

At a brief hearing Monday, MLB said it would not discipline Rodriguez for including the decision in his lawsuit. U.S. District Judge William H. Pauley III brushed aside concerns from the union about confidentiality concerns.

"Given the intense public interest in this matter and Commissioner Selig's disclosures last night on '60 Minutes,' it's difficult to imagine that any portion of this proceeding should be under seal," Pauley said.

The arbitrator noted Bosch and Rodriguez exchanged 556 text messages and had 53 telephone calls in 2012. He said all records of text messages were produced by Bosch, while lawyers for Rodriguez said the Blackberry he used to communicate with Bosch was deacti-

vated last March and Rodriguez no longer had it.

The arbitrator said Rodriguez instructed Bosch in one message to "erase all these messages."

Horowitz recounted how Rodriguez was introduced to Bosch after a Yankees game in Tampa, Fla., in July 2010 by A-Rod's cousin, Yuri Sucart, who knew Bosch through Jorge "Oggi" Velazquez.

Horowitz wrote MLB was justified in citing violations of the collective bargaining agreement because Rodriguez "played an active role in inducing Bosch to issue his own public denial on Jan. 29" and "attempted to induce Bosch to sign a sworn statement on May 31" saying he never supplied the player.

In determining the length of the penalty, Horowitz cited a 2008 decision in a grievance involving Neifi Perez in which arbitrator Shyam Das ruled "separate uses are subject to separate disciplines." He said under the discipline system for positive tests, Rodriguez would be subject to at least 150 games for three violations of 50 games. Still, Horowitz thought Selig's initial penalty was too severe.

"A suspension of one season satisfies the structures of just cause as commensurate with the severity of his violations," he wrote.

Rodriguez's lawyers claimed at worst the case should involve one first violation with a penalty of 50 games, and they said including the 2014 postseason was beyond the scope of Selig's original discipline. Horowitz rejected Rodriguez's argument that the lack of a positive test was proof of innocence.

"It is recognized Rodriguez passed 11 drug tests administered by MLB from 2010 through 2012. The assertion that Rodriguez would have failed those tests had he consumed those PES as alleged is not persuasive. As advanced as MLB's program has become, no drug-testing program will catch every player," Horowitz wrote.

In Selig's notice of discipline to Rodriguez on Aug. 5, he said MLB actively is investigating allegations he received banned substances in 2009 from Dr. Anthony Galea, who pleaded guilty in 2011 to a federal charge of bringing unapproved drugs into the United States from Canada.

Broncos CB Chris Harris out with torn ACL



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Last week, Chris Harris

marveled at how much Denver's injury-riddled defense had changed and how not a single player who started against Baltimore in last year's playoffs would start at the same position against San Diego on the anniversary of that crushing loss.

"We've lost so many guys," he said, shaking his head. "We've gotten good at keeping that next-man-up mentality."

On Monday, it was his turn to get the bad news: He'll miss the rest of the Broncos' playoff run after an MRI showed he had a torn ACL in his left knee that will require surgery and at least six months of rehab.

"There's no doubt he's one

of our better performers on defense throughout this season, but ... we've lost some pretty good performers throughout the season and this team's been resilient," coach John Fox said.

Harris was injured in the third quarter of Denver's 24-17 win over San Diego on Sunday.

Fox wouldn't say if Quentin Jammer will start in the AFC title game when the Broncos

(14-3) host the Patriots (13-4) this weekend.

"It's a long list, a long cast," Fox said. "If I knew right now, I wouldn't say anyways."

Fox's options include moving Champ Bailey, a 12-time Pro Bowler who's been relegated to slot duty after returning from a nagging foot injury last month, back outside or inserting rookie Kayvon Webster into the start-

ing lineup opposite Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie.

Webster is playing with a cast on his right thumb, which he broke in two places a month ago.

Another option is dusting off Tony Carter, who was one of the goats in Denver's 34-31 overtime loss at New England on Nov. 24 when a punt hit his leg, the Patriots recovered and Stephen Gostkowski kicked the game-winning 31-yard field goal.

After Harris got hurt, Chargers quarterback Philip Riv-

ers staged a comeback from a 17-point deficit largely by targeting Harris' rusty replacement, Jammer. It fell short, however, when Peyton Manning was able to keep Rivers on the sideline over the final 3 minutes, 51 seconds by converting a trio of third downs.

Jammer surrendered a 49-yard completion to Keenan Allen on fourth-and-5 from the Chargers' 25 with seven minutes left that helped turn a comfortable cruise into a nail-biter.

Anthony, Knicks edge Suns in OT for 5th straight



NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony had 29 points and 16 rebounds, and the New York Knicks held the Phoenix Suns without a field goal in overtime to win 98-96 on Monday night for their fifth straight victory.

Anthony scored four of the Knicks' six points in the extra session, and New York allowed only four free throws while forcing the Suns to miss all seven shots.

Raymond Felton added 19 points for the Knicks (15-22), who climbed into a tie with Brooklyn for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Goran Dragic had 28 points and eight rebounds for the Suns, who dropped their third straight. Leandro Barbosa scored 21 in his best game since rejoining his old team on a 10-day contract.

Spurs 101, Pelicans 95

In New Orleans, Tony Parker capped a 27-point outing with several clutch layups in the final minutes, and San Antonio beat reeling New Orleans for its fifth consecutive win.

Tim Duncan scored 18 points before fouling out with 6:02 to go in what turned out to be a surprisingly tense game between the Western Conference-leading Spurs and a hobbled Pelicans squad that has lost six straight since an injury to leading scorer Ryan Anderson.

Manu Ginobili added 14 points, Kawhi Leonard 13 and Marco Belinelli 12 for San Antonio.

Anthony Davis had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and gave New Orleans its last lead at 87-86 with 7:08 to play. Brian Roberts, starting at point guard for the injured Jrue Holiday, scored 19.

Wizards 102, Bulls 88

In Chicago, John Wall and Nene



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) is defended by Phoenix Suns' P.J. Tucker (17) during the overtime period of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 13, 2014, in New York. The Knicks won the game, 98-96.

had 19 points apiece, Trevor Ariza scored 16 and Washington ended Chicago's five-game win streak.

The Wizards led by 13 early in the fourth quarter and hung on after the Bulls made one last push.

Nene scored eight points in the final period and Bradley Beal came on strong down the stretch to finish with 13. He hit a jumper and 3-pointer during a nine-point run that bumped Washington's lead to 96-82 with about 3 minutes left.

Wall scored four points during that spurt and had seven assists in the game. The Wizards had dropped five of seven.

Carlos Boozer scored 19 for Chicago and Joakim Noah grabbed 16 rebounds, but with a chance to reach .500 for the first time since November, the

Bulls came up short. They also lost for the first time since trading Luol Deng to Cleveland last week, after winning three without him.

Rockets 104, Celtics 92

In Boston, Dwight Howard had 32 points and 10 rebounds, and Houston sent Boston crashing to its ninth consecutive defeat.

Jeremy Lin added 16 points and nine assists for the Rockets. James Harden scored 16 and Chandler Parsons added 14 after missing three games with a knee injury.

Avery Bradley had 24 points for the Celtics, on their longest losing streak since dropping a franchise-record 18 straight games in 2007.

Jerryd Bayless scored 15 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter for Boston, which rallied but got no closer than seven. The Celtics sent Howard to the foul line 14 times in the fourth quarter, and the big man made six. He was 10 of 18 in all.

Raptors 116, Bucks 94

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry scored 23 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Toronto handed struggling Milwaukee its sixth straight loss.

DeMar DeRozan added 19 points and Patrick Patterson 18 as Toronto won for the eighth time in nine games. The Atlantic Division leaders snapped a five-game home slide against the Bucks, beating them in Toronto for the

first time since Jan. 22, 2010.

The Raptors won their second straight over Milwaukee after losing the previous 10 meetings.

The victory gave Toronto a five-game home winning streak. At 19-17, the Raptors are two games above .500 for the first time since March 9, 2010, when they were 32-30.

Ersan Ilyasova scored a season-high 27 points for the Bucks, winless since beating the Lakers in Los Angeles on New Year's Eve. The NBA's worst team at 7-30, Milwaukee has lost 14 of 16 overall.

Mavericks 107, Magic 88

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 21 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 15

and Dallas extended Orlando's longest losing streak of the season to eight games.

The Mavericks won their third straight against sub-.500 teams since a blowout loss at San Antonio. Dallas now heads into a three-game stretch against Western Conference playoff contenders starting Wednesday at the Los Angeles Clippers.

Nowitzki did most of his damage in the first half with 10 points, two nights after scoring 20 in the third quarter on his way to a season-high 40 against New Orleans.

Jameer Nelson scored 21 and Glen Davis added 19 points and eight rebounds for the Magic, who got swept on a swing through five Western Conference cities and lost by an average of 20 points.

The Mavericks (23-16) moved seven games over .500 for the first time since the end of the lockout-shortened 2011-12 season.

Vince Carter had 17 points, including consecutive baskets in an 8-0 run that finally put Orlando away in the fourth quarter.

Jazz 118, Nuggets 103

In Salt Lake City, Alec Burks scored a career-high 34 points and Utah ended Denver's five-game winning streak.

Derrick Favors added 19 points and 15 rebounds while Trey Burke had 18 points for the Jazz, who won for the fifth time in their last six home games.

Burks was filling in for Gordon Hayward, who sat out his second consecutive game with a left hip injury. Burks scored 17 in the first half to help the Jazz run out to a 67-53 lead, their most points before half-time this season.

Ty Lawson had 23 points and J.J. Hickson scored 21 but the Nuggets trailed by as many as 24.

Federer, Azarenka advance as heat wave arrives



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Roger Federer kept his cool on a scorching hot second day at the Australian Open, starting his record 57th consecutive Grand Slam tournament with a straight-sets victory in his first competitive match in front of new coach Stefan Edberg.

Federer was the second match on Rod Laver Arena on Tuesday, and the temperature topped 41 Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) during his 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over Australian wild-card entry James Duckworth.

Two-time defending women's champion Victoria Azarenka played the previous match on the center court, and said it felt "like you're dancing in a frying pan."

Yet after her 7-6 (2), 6-2 win

over No. 91-ranked Johanna Larsson of Sweden, Azarenka went back out to practice.

Asked how he handled the heat, the 32-year-old Federer said: "I'm here. I'm speaking. Actually, it's not crazy. I'm feeling OK."

"It was very dry, just hot, you know, stinging sort of sun," he added later. "Depending on where you come from it has a bigger effect on you, this type of heat. So it's very personal, and it can become just a very mental thing, and you just can't accept that it's hot."

He now owns the record for playing the most consecutive Grand Slam events, another milestone in a career that has already resulted in 17 major titles for the Swiss star.

He kept the points as short as possible, and only gave No.

133-ranked Duckworth one look at a break point in the 1-hour, 46-minute match.

He said it was "great fun" to finally play in front of childhood hero Edberg, whom he hired on a part-time basis last month.

"I used to watch his matches and get inspired," Federer said, then added: "He warmed me up I won!"

The heat at Melbourne Park topped 42 C (108F) later, and the forecast was for more high temperatures until Friday. Temperatures in nearby Avalon peaked above 45C (113F).

A hot, gusty breeze swirled across the venue all day, making conditions more challenging instead of cooler and keeping the crowds down.

Players draped bags of ice over their necks and shoulders and sat under covered seats in

the changeovers across Melbourne Park. They retreated into the shade at the back of the courts between points.

Spectators covered their heads and shoulders with damp towels to cool off and queued up to stand in front of large electric fans blasting water at their faces. A ball kid was treated for heat stress during a morning match.

Some players struggled. Canadian qualifier Frank Dancevic said he felt like he blacked out during a 7-6 (12), 6-4, 6-3 loss to No. 27 Benoit Paire of France. Dancevic had treatment in the second set but continued.

He was playing on Court 6, where Polona Herczeg retired after one game and where No. 13 John Isner, the only seeded American man in the draw, retired after losing the first two

sets 6-2, 7-6 (6) against Martin Klizan. Isner said he was bothered by a right ankle injury.

Czech veteran Radek Stepanek retired with a sore neck when he was down a break in the fourth set against Blaz Kavcic, after winning two of the first three, but said it wasn't heat-related.

No. 21 Philipp Kohlschreiber withdrew before his first-round match due to a strained left hamstring. His replaced in the draw by Frenchman Stephane Robert, who beat Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-0.

Among the other men advancing were No. 10 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 11 Milos Raonic, No. 22 Grigor Dimitrov and No. 16 Kei Nishikori, who needed five sets to beat Australian Marinko Matosevic.

On the women's side, No. 8

Jelena Jankovic, No. 10 Caroline Wozniacki, No. 11 Simona Halep, No. 16 Carla Suarez Navarro and No. 29 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and American Christina McHale advanced in straight sets.

No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska had a 6-0, 5-7, 6-2 win over Yulia Putintseva.

Former No. 1-ranked Wozniacki said the court was so hot in her 6-0, 6-2 win over Lourdes Dominguez Lino, which started at 11 a.m., that it seemed to melt her plastic water bottle.

In her first Grand Slam match since her New Year's Eve engagement to golfer Rory McIlroy, she did everything she could to keep cool.

"Every time in the changeovers, ice bags, ice towels, everything," Wozniacki said. "I put the bottle down on the court and it started melting a little bit underneath, the plastic, so you knew it was warm."

Pangelinan: Southern Soccer Sports Complex up next

Guam Sen. Vicente “Ben” C. Pangelinan (D), chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Public Debt, Retirement, Legal Affairs, Public Parks, Recreation, Historic Preservation, and Land (Committee) met with representatives of the Guam Football Association, Mayor Carol Tayama of Agat, Mayor Dale Alvarez of Santa Rita and director Ray Blas of the Department of Parks & Recreation last Dec.

27 for an update on the status of the construction of a southern soccer center in the village of Agat. As part of the development of the Northern Soccer Sports Complex, Pangelinan made certain there was financing reserved to develop a regulation-size soccer field as part of the Southern Sports Complex. Tayama and Alvarez both expressed their support to develop the Complex.

“The GFA has done tremendous work developing its northern facility for avid soccer players of all ages,” expressed Pangelinan. According to GFA officials, the Dededo facility is about 90 percent complete and, thus they are now ready to begin developing the Complex to welcome soccer players who live in the south. “As part of the law passed for the Dededo facility, I ensured funding was available to

build something in the south so families won’t have to drive to Dededo for children and adults to play soccer,” stated Pangelinan. At the meeting, Tayama, of GFA president Richard Lai, and Blas signed the Memorandum of Agreement between DPR and GFA to move the project forward. The MOA is now with the Attorney General for his review and then to Gov. Eddie Calvo for

final approval. “I am pleased that all parties were present to sign the MOA and now we await signatures from the AG and the Governor for GFA to begin the design and construction of the Complex,” stated Pangelinan. Once all parties have signed the MOA, GFA hopes to begin construction and complete the project within 3-6 months. “I am very excited to finally see some movement towards the completion of this project and trust that the GFA will be as successful in building a first-class facility for the south as they were for the north,” Pangelinan said.

It was only a few weeks ago that Guam’s National Football Team, the “Matao,” was ranked No. 161 in the latest FIFA/Coca-

Cola World Rankings, the highest ever rank-to-date. “With the local government’s support for the GFA’s endeavors, we will continue to see improvement of our players at the international level. It is my hope that we get this project and others moving so that we can continue to build on our people’s recent successes,” Pangelinan stated.

“I am also most proud that the public private partnership we created by law between the government of Guam and the Guam Football Association has been cited as the most successful program in FIFA resulting in the improvement of the sport of soccer for a country program and is being used as a model for other FIFA projects,” concluded Pangelinan. (PR)

Titans hire Ken Whisenhunt as their new coach

 **NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—The Tennessee Titans have wrapped up their coaching search by hiring San Diego offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt as their new head coach and 17th in franchise history.

Titans president and CEO Tommy Smith called the hiring a big day in announcing the hiring Monday.

“Ken is a well-respected coach in this league and I am looking forward to seeing his vision become reality for this team,” Smith said in a statement. “He has a history of building successful offenses and took Arizona to a Super Bowl as a head coach. We all share a common goal for this team and that is to build a consistent winner.”

Whisenhunt, 51, will be introduced at a news conference Tuesday.

The Titans flew to San Diego on Friday and interviewed Whisenhunt, who started his

coaching career in Nashville at Vanderbilt. He was the fourth person interviewed by the Titans, who fired Mike Munchak on Jan. 4.

But the Titans had competition for Whisenhunt, who also interviewed with Detroit and Cleveland last week. The Tennessean reported the Titans interviewed Cincinnati defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer for a second time Monday in Houston before hiring Whisenhunt.

Smith thanked general manager Ruston Webster for overseeing only the second coaching search by this franchise since moving to Tennessee in 1997. Webster said Whisenhunt’s intelligence, track record with quality offenses and success as a head coach stand out to him most.

“I really enjoyed our meeting on Friday night in San Diego, and we share similar philosophies about the game,” Webster said.

“Additionally, we have several mutual colleagues that have spoken highly to me

about Ken both as a coach and as a person. I am excited about Ken joining us and the future of the Titans.”

Whisenhunt spent six years coaching Arizona and took the Cardinals to their lone Super Bowl in 2009. He was fired Dec. 31, 2012, with a record of 45-51 in the regular season and 4-2 in the playoffs.

He interviewed with Cleveland twice last year before being hired as offensive coordinator in San Diego where he helped Philip Rivers and the Chargers to the playoffs.

Chargers rookie head coach Mike McCoy said earlier Monday before the Titans hired Whisenhunt that he didn’t want to lose his coordinator but realized he might lose him after only a year.

“Ken has done an outstanding job here this year,” McCoy said. “He is a big reason of why we got as far as we did, not only on the field, but behind the scenes with things that he did to help me.”

Tight end Antonio Gates said Whisenhunt did a phenomenal

job implementing a new offense in San Diego that put them in the best position possible.

“It was a privilege and a pleasure to be around a guy of that stature with the experience and winning Super Bowls, and then helping me grow as a player,” Gates said.

Whisenhunt, a native of Augusta, Ga., played tight end at Georgia Tech and played 74 games in nine NFL seasons with Atlanta, Washington and the Jets.

He started coaching in Nashville as an assistant at Vanderbilt and also was offensive coordinator for Pittsburgh between 2004 and 2006. He also has coached at Baltimore, the Jets and Cleveland.

The Titans were the last NFL team to fire a head coach, and this hiring leaves Minnesota, Detroit and Cleveland still looking for a head coach. They also interviewed Jay Gruden, who was hired Thursday as Washington’s new coach and Baltimore offensive coordinator Jim Caldwell.

MDX caging sets Feb. 9 start

The MDX Amateur Radio Club will unfurl its 2014 Inter-Color Basketball League on Feb. 9 with two divisions competing at different venues.

The 40-and-over division will see action at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at the Oleai Sports Complex, while the B Division will play in the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

To this end, MDX has set an organizational meeting this coming Friday, Jan. 17, 5:30pm at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The organizing committee members of the MDX 2014 Inter-Color Basketball League, with their contact numbers in parenthesis, are Jojo Garon, (483-2939); Sonny Ebuena (785-7023);

Abner Venus (8880-3215); and Peter Crisostomo (483-2356)

For more information on the 2014 Inter-Color Basketball League, contact Pete Reyes at 989-7317 or email at reyes.pete@gmail.com or Bong Malasarte at 287- 5525 or email him at bong@malasarte.com. (Saipan Tribune)



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	19	17	.528	—
New York	15	22	.405	4 1/2
Brooklyn	15	22	.405	4 1/2
Boston	13	26	.333	7 1/2
Philadelphia	12	25	.324	7 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	27	10	.730	—
Atlanta	20	18	.526	7 1/2
Washington	17	19	.472	9 1/2
Charlotte	15	23	.395	12 1/2
Orlando	10	28	.263	17 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	29	7	.806	—
Chicago	17	19	.472	12
Detroit	16	22	.421	14
Cleveland	13	24	.351	16 1/2
Milwaukee	7	30	.189	22 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	30	8	.789	—
Houston	25	14	.641	5 1/2
Dallas	23	16	.590	7 1/2
Memphis	17	19	.472	12
New Orleans	15	22	.405	14 1/2

Northwest Division

Portland	28	9	.757	—
Oklahoma City	28	9	.757	—
Denver	19	18	.514	9
Minnesota	18	19	.486	10
Utah	13	26	.333	16

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	26	13	.667	—
Golden State	25	14	.641	1
Phoenix	21	16	.568	4
L.A. Lakers	14	23	.378	11
Sacramento	13	22	.371	11

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAYMOND

From Page 28

eraged 207.22 in the qualifier and was the lone bowler in the field to go over the 200-mark average, as Alex Castro and Manacop, who joined Zapanta in the stepladder finals, averaged only 197.89 and 195.22, respectively.

Castro made the cut despite a so-so start in the qualifier. He had only 172 pinfalls in Game 1, but had a solid performance in the next three (219, 201, 221) before tallying his lowest score in the qualifier in Game 5 (148). Castro quickly recovered in Game 6 (198) and went all out two of the last three games (232, 206, 184) to gather 1,781 pinfalls.

Manacop, who won the 2011 and 2012 editions of SBA’s season-finale tournament, had a roller-coaster showing in the qualifier. He knocked down at 200-plus pins on four occasions (213, 245, 212, and 235) and adding his scores in the five other games (181, 172, 185, 174, and 140), the erstwhile champion gained 1,757 pinfalls.

Manacop took the third and last spot to the stepladder finals after winning by only one pinfall against Ramir De Deleon, who earned 1,756 pinfalls. De Leon fell short on his bid to advance to the stepladder finals after carding 216 in the last game against the 235 of Manacop. Before the final game, De Leon was ahead of Manacop, 1,540-1,522.

With De Leon missing the cut, Manacop earned the right

to face Castro in the first round of the stepladder finals. The back-to-back champion then eliminated Castro, 265-177, to boost his chances for the threepeat and challenge Zapanta in the finals.

Zapanta had a twice-to-beat advantage in the title duel after ruling the nine-game qualifier and needed the edge, as Manacop surprised the former in Game 1 with a 186-148 victory. The 148 in Game 1 of the finals was the lowest output of Zapanta in last Sunday’s tournament, but he made up for it by recording his best game in the weekend event—a 241-pinfall performance in the deciding Game 2 to end Manacop’s reign. Manacop had only 184 pinfalls for a two-game total of 370, while Zapanta got

389 to secure the title.

Meanwhile, 15 other bowlers joined last Sunday’s tournament. The list includes Robert Talavera (1,734), Paul Pangelinan (1,687), Raymond Angeles (1,663), Ronald Batac (1,657), Bernard Paraiso (1,657), Ra-

phael Zapanta (1,645), Percy Omechelang (1,630), Lito Teodoro (1,621), Raul Dumapit (1,618), Yong Woon Lee (1,598), Ariel Dumapit (1,578), Rusty Musca (1,475), Roger De Guzman (1,440), Jorge Soledad (1,349), and Ruselle Zapanta (1,208).

EUCON

From Page 28

with his 12 points, while Jack Wang and Wayne Li added 10 markers apiece. Christopher Cepeda was the lone double figure scorer for SIS with his 17 points.

First Game

Eucon 48 — Alamer 12, Li 10, Ja. Wang 10, Ji 8, J. Wang

2, Zheng 2.

SIS 28 — Cepeda 27, Johnson 8, Y. Kim 2, H. Kim 1.

Scoring by quarters: 7-2, 18-5, 29-13, 48-28.

Second Game

Eucon 67 — Yu 27, R. Wang 17, Ren 14, Zhang 4, T. Li 3.

MCS 50 — Camacho 24, Sablan 10, Evangelista 6, Amog 5, Kwon 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-15, 26-35, 47-38, 67-50.

HUSTLER

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Hofscheider, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and other dignitaries. Rogolifoi added that the 31 teams participating this season are advised to be at the field by 4pm.

Included in the 31 squads are

the Kagman Lions and Fielders, who will battle the Big League title against the Hustlers and the Braves. The Braves missed last year’s championship after bowing to the Padres in the finals, 1-2.

In the Major division, the Falcons are back to defend the championship they won against McDonald’s last season, 5-1. Last year’s runner-up is also

returning this season and will be joined by Rockies, Tanapag Braves, Little Legals, IT&E, JPO Enforcers, Laolao, Comets II, Hustlers, Comets I, Red Sox, Ol’Aces, Jets, and As Matuis.

In the Junior League, the Red Sox will be gunning for their third straight title against JPO, Falcons, Jets, Fielders, and Comets. The Red Sox notched back-to-back crowns last sea-

son after beating the JPO Enforcers in the 2013 finale, 5-3.

In the Senior League, it will be a six-team fight among defending champion Fielders, Braves, Kagman Lions, JPO Enforcers, Jets, and Red Sox. The Fielders took last year’s Senior League title after an 8-4 triumph against the NSA Braves.

Only the Big League game

will be played in the opening day this weekend, while matches in the three other divisions will take place this Saturday and Sunday.

Saipan Little League is kicking off its season a month earlier to give players more time to prepare for the Asian Pacific Regional Tournament once the local competition concludes and anticipate make-up matches.

2013 SBA 8-Ball Open League Winners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Brian Nelvis, left, and Rey Pinangay pose with the top performer trophies during the 2013 SBA 8-Ball Open League Awards Banquet held last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret.



Jokers Homeboyz players show the Budweiser Cup championship trophy they won in the Thursday League.



SBA's Cecile Vivero, right, pose with Jokers Bar's Clarence and Jeff Barit, who received a plaque of appreciation for supporting the league.



Docomo Hustlers players pose with their Budweiser Cup (Tuesday League) championship trophy.



James Lee, right, receives a plaque of appreciation for MARPAC.



From left, Erwin Gomez, Mark Butac, and Rolly Villanueva receive trophies for the run the rack category in the Tuesday League.



Members of the IT&E Voyagers gather for a photo after getting the first place trophy in the Tuesday League.



Poseidon Docomo Drunken Hustlers players pose with their championship trophies in the Thursday League.



Team SCS gets the Sportsmanship Award in the Thursday League.



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union to overturn
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edge Suns in OT
for 5th straight**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Raymond dethrones Simon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Raymond Zapanta foiled Simon Manacop's bid for a three-peat after winning the Saipan Bowling Association's 2013 Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament held last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta topped the nine-game qualifying tournament with 213 pinfalls and then survived Manacop in the stepladder finals to end the latter's reign in SBA's season-finale competition. The newly crowned champion earned 200-plus pinfalls in seven of the nine games in the qualifier to collect 1,865 pinfalls and av-
See RAYMOND on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Raymond Zapanta, seen here with the third place trophy in the 2012 tournament, this time won Saipan Bowling Association's 2013 season-finale tournament held last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Eucon gains twin wins



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Eucon International School player stays on defense at the backcourt against Mount Carmel School's point guard during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Monday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eucon International School bagged two victories in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball last Monday.

In the junior varsity match at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, the Blazers had a rousing debut after routing Saipan International School, 48-28. In the varsity game, Eucon recovered from the opening day loss to the MHS Dolphins after defeating the debuting Mount Carmel School, 67-50.

The Blazers avoided a 0-2 start in the varsity division, as they bounced back from a 9-point halftime deficit and turned the tables on the Knights in the second half.

Down 26-35, the Blazers sizzled for 21 points against only 3 of the Knights to grab the upper hand at the end of the third period, 47-38. Rafael Wang anchored Eucon's third-quarter push, as he dropped 10 of his total points in that canto. Allen Yu also contributed in the recovery, adding 5 markers.

Mount Carmel, which scored in twin digits in the first two quarters to control the opening half, was held to a field goal in the third period



off William Camacho's triple. The Knights went on to play catch up in the fourth canto after losing the driver's seat in the third, but were frustrated by Amon Ren, Yu, and Wang, who combined for 19 of the Blazers' 21 markers in the fourth to preserve the lead and the win.

Yu led all scorers with his 27 points, while Wang and Ren also finished in double figures with 17 and 14, respectively. Camacho paced Mount Carmel with his 24 markers, while Jared Sablan had a quiet 10 points.

Meanwhile, in the junior varsity game, Eucon picked up its scoring in the last three quarters en route to a 20-point win against the Geckos.

Eucon knocked in only 7 points in the opening period for a shaky 7-2 lead before it scored 11 markers apiece in the next two quarters to slowly pull away. The Geckos were without a field goal in the first canto and had one in the second before adding four in the third, but still faced a double-digit deficit after the third, 13-29. In the fourth quarter, both teams got into their rhythm, but the Blazers still had the last say, firing 19 markers against the 15 of the Geckos.

Zion Alamer led the Blazers
See EUCON on Page 26

Hustlers vs Braves in Little League opener



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Junior League player delivers a pitch during a game in last year's Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The league will open its 2014 season this Friday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball will open shop this Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Hustlers, who are composed of the core of the Padres that won last season's Big League, will play in the opening game against last year's

runners-up the Tanapag Braves. The opener will take place after the 5:30pm opening ceremony.

Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. president Tony Rogolifo said invitations for the opening ceremony had already been sent out to members of both the government and business sectors.

Invited to the kick-off are Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U.
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